# Daily Report

# Near East & South Asia

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## Near East & South Asia

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*LD231331 [Editorial Report]*

## Gulf Conflict

*Khamene'i's UNGA Speech*—Tehran radio broadcast President 'Ali Khamene'i's speech at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in which he warned that the United States will receive its "just return" for the "shameful" attack on the *Iran Ajr*. The bitter aftermath of the U.S. action will not be limited to the Gulf, he said, and responsibility for all ensuing incidents must be borne by the United States.

Discussing the war with Iraq, Khamene'i stressed that Iran's most important goal remains "the punishment of the aggressor" in order to provide a firm basis for Iranian and regional national security. Iran attaches greater importance to this goal than ever before, he added. Criticizing the Security Council for having failed to condemn the Iraqi invasion of Iran, he claimed that pressure from the superpowers, especially the United States, has placed the Security Council in an "improper and damning position." Security built with the support of such a Security Council is "built of cardboard," he added. Nevertheless, Iran found the talks with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar "realistic and helpful" in finding a solution to the war, and it believes Perez de Cuellar's report to the Security Council has "the same approach," he noted.

*Other Iranian Comment*—IRGC Commander Mohsen Rezai'e told Tehran radio that the U.S. "aggression" against one of Iran's "supply and logistics" ships marks "the start of a direct war and U.S. involvement against our people." Iran has hitherto restrained its fighters, he said, but now the time has come when it will deliver a "decisive blow" against the United States. Iran "cannot leave this U.S. action unanswered," and it will respond "in the near future."

*Arab Comment on U.S. Action*—In editorials cited by QNA, the Qatari papers *Al-Rayah* and *Gulf Times* criticized the "unjustifiable" expansion of the conflict, warning that the U.S. attack may lead to further confrontation and escalation. Bahrain's *Akhbar al-Khalij* said the two "regrettable incidents" in the Gulf 22 September were "natural consequences" of the resumption of war operations, according to WAKH. The Bahraini paper expressed support for the imposition of an arms embargo on Iran. Jordan's *Al-Ra'y* stated that Arab aircraft and warships should have attacked the Iranian mine-laying ship and brought the crew to trial for terrorism. In Syria, Damascus radio reported both U.S. and Iranian statements on the U.S. attack, but the radio subsequently cited an *Al-Ba'th* commentary which excoriated the U.S. "aggression against the Iranian supply vessel," and contended that there is "firm" evidence to refute the U.S. story.

*Saudi Reaction to Khamene'i*—References in Khamene'i's UNGA speech to the Mecca incidents last July were denounced as "untrue, unrealistic, and unfounded falsifications" in a Saudi official statement carried by SPA. The Saudi delegation walked out of the Assembly when Khamene'i began attacking the Saudi Government over the affair, KUNA noted.

*Iran-Iraq Fighting*—Iraqi aircraft raided factories and electricity installations in Bakhtaran 23 September, according to a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. IRNA said at least one civilian was killed and five were wounded in the raids. Iraq also announced in a statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses that its forces repulsed an Iranian naval attack on the Al-'Amiq offshore jetty during the night of 22 September. Two Iranian boats were "destroyed" and 13 others were "forced to flee." Iran's IRGC had earlier announced over Tehran radio that its naval units fired at Iraqi vessels in the Khawr 'Abdallah 21 September, sinking one ship and damaging another. However, an Iraqi military spokesman denied this as another "fabrication" of the Iranians' "sick minds," INA reported.

On land, 21 Iraqi civilians were killed and around 50 wounded in further Iranian artillery attacks on Basra, according to Iraqi statements carried by Baghdad radio and INA. An Iranian official said the shelling was in retaliation for Iraq's 21 September air raid on Azna in which 21 civilians were killed and 196 injured, Tehran radio noted. Regarding the situation in northern Iraq, IRNA cited an IRGC report that Iraqi Kurdish rebels repulsed an attempt by government forces to retake Hayran District in Irbil Province, adding that "over 1,000" Iraqi soldiers were killed.

Military hardware displayed at a 22 September parade in Tehran included "Stinger" portable antiaircraft missiles, IRNA claimed. The parade, which marked the seventh anniversary of the start of the war, also featured other missiles as well as an air display by F-14, F-4, F-5, and tanker aircraft.

## Turkey

Two unidentified warplanes fired at a village in Hakkari Province 23 September, killing two villagers and injuring four others, Ankara radio announced. The attack occurred in the Cukurca area, near the border with Iraq.

## Iraq-USSR

Minutes of the joint committee on Iraqi-Soviet cooperation were signed by Heavy Industries Minister Qasim Ahmad al-'Uraybi and Konstantin Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, INA reported. In remarks to the agency, Katushev declared that the talks were carried out "in an atmosphere of complete understanding and a spirit of friendship." The Iraqi oil minister was among the high-level officials who conferred with Katushev during the Soviet delegation's week-long visit, INA noted.

## Libya

The bodies of two "high-ranking" Soviet experts killed during the 5 September battle at the Ma'tan al-Sarra military base have been recovered and repatriated,

"competent, well-informed sources" revealed to TANJUG. In other developments regarding the conflict with Chad, Foreign Liaison Secretary Jadallah Azzuz al-Talhi arrived in Lusaka, Zambia, 23 September to attend a meeting of the special OAU committee on the Libya-chad conflict, AFP reported. According to JANA, the decision to dispatch Al-Talhi followed contacts between Colonel Mu'ammmar al-Qadhdhafi and the Zambian president.

Regarding relations with Maghreb neighbors, Al-Qadhdhafi received the Tunisian minister of social affairs and his delegation, JANA reported. The officials arrived in Tripoli 20 September for talks on developing bilateral cooperation.

### Syria

Defense Minister Major General Mustafa Talas stated in an interview with Vienna television that no rapprochement can be expected between President Hafiz al-Asad and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, adding that Saddam must be overthrown and his regime eliminated. Regarding relations with the USSR, Talas noted that Syria does not agree with the Soviet Union in every respect.

### Southern Sudan

The Sudanese African Parties and the SPLA stated their commitment to the "search for genuine peace" and called on "contending" political forces to "refrain from antagonistic and hostile attitudes," according to a joint communique published by the *Kenya Times* 23 September. The two groups, who held a 3-day meeting in Nairobi, also appealed to all area countries as well as pertinent international organizations to pressure the Sudanese Goverment to support the peace process.

### Afghanistan

Nineteen people were killed over the weekend when "opposition extremists" fired "U.S.-made surface-to-surface missiles" on an area of Shindand District, Herat Province, BAKHTAR reported. The agency also noted that a group of rebels in the Spin Buldak District, Qandahar Province, was "crushed" after they refused to lay down their arms.

## Inter-Arab Affairs

### Libya Reportedly To Mediate in Gulf War

*JN230854 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 Sep (WAKH)—Press reports in Abu Dhabi today stated that a senior Libyan delegation led by Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, will soon visit Tehran to mediate an end to the Iraq-Iran war. Today's edition of *Al-Ittihad*, published in Abu Dhabi, cited Arab diplomatic sources as saying that contacts at the highest level recently took place between Libya and Iran. These contacts touched on the future of relations between the two countries in light of Libyan-Iraqi rapprochement. Libya affirmed to Iran during these contacts that its establishing of normal relations with Baghdad does not conflict with Libya's relations with Tehran. Libya also affirmed that it wishes to play a role in ending the Gulf war. The newspaper quoted these sources as saying that if any progress is achieved in the peace plan which Libya has prepared in absolute secrecy, then Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is expected to visit Tehran and Baghdad, especially since Iraq has expressed willingness to receive him.

### 'Senior' Libyan Figure Expected in Amman

*LD230945 Kuwait KUNA in English 0903 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] Amman, Sept 23 (KUNA)—Well-placed Jordanian sources told KUNA here Wednesday that a senior Libyan official is expected in the Jordanian capital today on an official mission despite absence of diplomatic relations between the two Arab countries.

The sources said the Libyan official, it did not identify, will meet with a number of senior Jordanian officials to review developments in the Middle East and other issues of mutual concern.

Jordan severed ties with Libya in 1983 following a mob attack on the Jordanian Embassy in the Libyan capital.

According to the sources, the Libyan envoy will discuss with the Jordanian officials the question of restoration of diplomatic relations between the two countries before November 8 when an emergency Arab summit is scheduled to convene here.

Early this month, the Libyan Foreign Minister Jadallah al-Talhi agreed with the Iraqi officials, with whom he met in the Iraqi capital, to restore diplomatic ties broken by Baghdad over Tripoli's conclusion of an accord with Iran, Iraq's foe in a seven-year war.

### Arab League Session Ends; Motions Passed

*LD230129 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2255 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Tunis, 22 Sep (SPA)—The Arab League Council this evening concluded its 88th regular session, which was held at the level of representatives and chaired by Sudan.

The Council, which will tomorrow issue a press statement on its resolutions, heard reports from the economic, administrative, financial, political, information, and other committees and then discussed their contents.

At the political level, the Council condemned the agreement between the Iranian Government and the Israeli enemy on the immigration of Iranian Jews to the occupied territories, as well as the existing cooperation between the two sides in the arms trade.

The Council also appealed to Arab countries and concerned organizations to urgently assist Lebanon to contend with its economic and social difficulties. It called on the United States to reconsider its closure of the PLO Information Office [in Washington].

The Council expressed complete support for the liberation movements in South Africa.

The Council also recommended that Arab countries be required to pay their allocated contributions to the Arab League to ensure that it will be able to continue its work for joint Arab action in a satisfactory manner.

## Palestinian Affairs

### PLO Executive Committee Ends Meetings 18 Sep

*JN182030 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 18 Sep 87*

[Text] Under the chairmanship of brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the PLO Executive Committee this morning ended the meetings it began in Baghdad last Tuesday. During these prolonged meetings, the Executive Committee discussed various developments in the Palestinian question. Discussion also focused on the conditions prevailing inside the occupied homeland, the organized Zionist repression and terrorism facing our people there, and ways to strengthen our people's resistance of this aggressive policy and entrench their steadfastness to foil and repulse the occupation's evil objective.

The Executive Committee also concentrated its attention on the conditions of the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. It discussed ways to promote the steadfastness of the people in the camps and end their difficult circumstances so that they may continue their normal life and their national and militant role in confronting the Zionist occupation and escalating the Palestinian march of freedom and national struggle. A statement on the meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and the topics discussed is expected soon.

### Statement on Meetings

*JN192005 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1829 GMT 19 Sep 87*

["Text" of PLO Executive Committee statement issued in Baghdad on 19 September]

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee held a session in Baghdad 15-18 September 1987 under Brother Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, and

in the presence of PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih. During these meetings, the PLO Executive Committee discussed several topics and issues on its agenda. The most important of these issues is the Palestinian situation in Lebanon in light of the agreement reached between the leaderships of the Palestinian National Action Committee in Lebanon and the Liberation and Unification Front with the participation of a number of Syrian observers. The PLO Executive Committee has blessed this agreement, especially since it constitutes a positive and constructive step toward ending the 2 and 1/2-year siege of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon and the consequences of this siege in terms of the loss of life and the destruction of houses, installations, and facilities, particularly in the Sabra, Shatila, Burj al-Barajinah, and Al-Rashidiyah camps.

Although the agreement has been signed, the PLO Executive Committee noted that its implementation is still stumbling in view of the fact that some forces in the Amal Movement are attempting to place further obstacles in its path. At the same time, our camps, particularly in the Sidon and Tyre areas, are being exposed to a continuous Zionist aggression from the sea and air, which inflicts grave losses of life and material. There is also the Israeli siege of the southern Lebanese coasts. The PLO will continue to deal positively with this agreement, despite all obstacles hampering its implementation, for the sake of alleviating our people's sufferings in the besieged camps and the fraternal people's security and economic crisis. On this occasion today, we recall the fifth anniversary of the painful massacres in Sabra and Shatila and their heroic citizens, who confronted the Zionist enemy and its agents with bare chests and were martyred on the road to Palestine.

The PLO Executive Committee reviewed the conditions of our people in the occupied territory and their heroic and marvelous steadfastness. The Committee also reviewed their escalating struggle against the Israeli enemy and its plans, including the conspiracy of job distribution and the series of organized crimes against our people by the gangs of Kahane, Levinger, Sharon, and Tehiya with the support of the Israeli Army and Government. The PLO Executive Committee discussed measures against citizens in Arab Jerusalem and the camps, particularly the Balatah, Al-Duhayshah, and others, in terms of the fierce repressive measures and crimes the Zionist army and the security forces carry out against our heroic detainees in Israeli prisons. The Committee also viewed the continuous aggression against holy places, particularly the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The PLO Executive Committee also discussed measures against Palestinian universities in the occupied territory in terms of continuous harrassment, storming campaigns, closures, and the financial crisis of these universities. The PLO Executive Committee appeals to all Arab states, particularly the supporting states, to contribute to saving these universities from their financial crisis.

The Executive Committee also discussed the Zionist policy aimed at stealing drinking water in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, particularly the project to dig wells in the Bethlehem area and threaten the West Bank water resources as a whole. The Committee also discussed the arrests and deportations that the occupation authorities are carrying out against national figures and cadres.

The Executive Committee reviewed the discussions of the conference of nongovernmental organizations, which was held in Geneva to express solidarity with the Palestinian people and their just cause on 7 September, and the important activities and positive programs of the conference. The Executive Committee praised the comprehensive speech that the PLO Executive Committee chairman made at this conference—a speech that included the Palestinian principles defined by the successive PNC sessions. The Executive Committee also examined the disinformation attempt by hostile circles to undermine the important results of this great international conference.

The Executive Committee reviewed the results of the visits of Brother Abu 'Ammar and his delegation to Sudan, Ethiopia, and the YAR. The Executive Committee appreciated the PLO leadership's efforts, in conjunction with those of the African brothers, to effect a cease-fire between Libya and Chad and open the way for urgent political solutions based on good-neighborliness and the resolution of differences by peaceful means.

The Executive Committee approved a plan of action with regard to the Arab League Council, which will be held in Tunis tomorrow, and the current UN session. The Palestinian delegation was formed under the leadership of Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department.

The Executive Committee considered the dimensions of the U.S. authorities' arbitrary decision to close the Palestinian Information Office in Washington. This decision reiterates the fact that the U.S. Administration is continuing its hostile policy and its denial of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians to make it possible for the various sectors of U.S. public opinion to hear the Palestine voice.

The Executive Committee discussed developments in the Iraq-Iran war, their repercussions on the region, and the danger of the current escalation in the Gulf region, including the mammoth and serious gathering of navies, particularly that of the United States.

Struggler President Saddam Husayn received Brother Abu 'Ammar, His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, and the brother members of the Executive Committee on 17 September. During this important meeting, various aspects of the political situation were discussed as well the Palestinian developments, the Iraq-Iran war, and the current international efforts to stop this war. The meeting also dealt with Gulf developments. During the meeting, Brother Abu 'Ammar reiterated the PLO's appreciation of the fraternal Iraqi support for the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian

people's struggle. He affirmed the need to continue effective Arab and international efforts to stop this war and emphasized the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598, which calls for ending the Iraq-Iran war. The Executive Committee highly appreciated fraternal Iraq's approval of this resolution.

The Executive Committee has decided to ask the PLO Central Council to convene in early October. It also adopted a number of organizational and administrative resolutions.

Glory and immortality to our martyrs; glory to our heroic people. Revolution until victory.

[Signed] The PLO Executive Committee, Baghdad, 19 September 1987

### 'Arafat Comments on Egypt, Other Issues

*JN191740 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Sep 87*

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has described inter-Arab differences as transient. He pointed out that there are Saudi and Algerian efforts to convene an Arab summit to discuss developments in the Arab arena.

In a press statement published in Cairo today, Brother Abu 'Ammar explained that the PLO delegation will demand that Egypt return to the Arab fold during the next Arab summit. He said that the PLO had played an effective role with regard to Egypt's return to the ICO in 1984. This issue will be dealt with when the Arab summit convenes, he added.

Brother Abu 'Ammar discussed the international conference for peace in the Middle East. He said that the questions posed by some about the effectiveness of such a conference, as well as their casting of doubt on its ability to achieve a just and comprehensive peace, are the result of the authorities of the Zionist entity not respecting international legitimacy, ruling by the methods of terrorist gangs, and exercising power arrogantly.

With regard to Nabih Birri's initiative on the camps war, brother leader Abu 'Ammar said meetings last week have thus far yielded positive results. In this regard, he said, the Palestinian leadership made a decision that was conveyed to the Lebanese leadership to the effect that it will deal positively with all initiatives and good offices.

### 'Arafat Receives Message From SFRY President

*JN191744 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Sep 87*

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has received a message from the SFRY president dealing with the SFRY viewpoint on developments in the Palestinian question, particularly on the international level, as well as matters of concern to SFRY-Palestinian relations.

This message was received by Brother Hakam Bal'awi, PLO representative in Tunis, when he met with the SFRY ambassador in Tunis yesterday. The Palestinian news agency, WAFA, said that during the meeting they reviewed the latest developments in the Palestinian question, as well as SFRY-Palestinian relations.

### PFLP-GC Paper Says Paqraduni,'Arafat Met

*JN220709 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] In Damascus *Ila al-Amam* [Forward], the organ of the PFLP-GC, has confirmed that a secret meeting took place in Baghdad 2 weeks ago between Yasir 'Arafat and Karim Paqraduni, deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces. *Ila al-Amam* says that the purpose of the meeting was to coordinate the creation of disturbances in Lebanese areas supervised by the Syrian forces and to boost the nomination of Samir Ja'ja', commander of the Lebanese Forces, as a candidate in the presidential elections. The Lebanese Forces have denied the report and affirmed that it is completely false.

### Statement Condemns 'Zionist' Crimes in Balatah

*JN181701 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Sep 87*

[Statement issued by the PLO; date and place not given]

[text] In implementation of the iron-fist policy against the masses of our Palestinian people in the occupied homeland, the occupation forces and settlers have imposed a complete military siege on the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus for the 3d consecutive day. These forces are carrying out a systematic campaign of terrorism accompanied by a true massacre of innocent civilians. As a result of indiscriminate shooting by the occupation forces, four civilians were martyred and five others wounded, including children.

The crimes committed by the Zionist military occupation forces on the anniversary of their ugly massacres against our people in Sabra and Shatila provide new evidence of the aggressive, fascist nature of this racist Zionist entity. These bestial crimes will not prevent our people and revolutionaries from continuing their struggle to establish the Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO. The sons of this struggler people will reply to the crimes of the new war criminal, Yitzhaq Rabin. Revolution until victory.

### Further Reaction to Closure of PLO Office

#### Closure 'Malicious Suppression'

*JN191702 Kuwait KUWAIT TIMES in English 17 Sep 87 p 6*

[Editorial: "Regrettable Provocation"]

[Text] Reagan Administration has decided to close down the Palestine Information Office [PIO] in the U.S. This is a case plainly of adding injury to insult. As the Arab

League envoy to the United States, Clovis Maksoud points out, this is an unabashed submission on the part of the administration to pressure from the Zionist lobby. That this lobby has acquired the strength to virtually move heaven and earth in the United States is a standing scandal which has long ceased to be news. But the disclosure that the Zionists would go to the extent of getting an innocuous information outfit suppressed and the U.S. Government would tamely give in, records an all time low for both. What is one to say? Lo and behold the nation with the First Amendment to its constitution defending the right to free and unhindered flow of information...a nation which never tires of proclaiming freedom of expression as its greatest pride...a nation strangulating a harmless information outpost of a mercilessly usurped people! What is the beholder to say?

Let it be clearly understood that there is no allegation against the PIO of any wrong-doing of any kind at any moment in time. It has not been found guilty of any error, solescism, offence. On the other hand, the sensitive American citizen is now fed up with reports of misdemeanours by agents and moles of the Zionist lobby who infest the most sensitive of spots in the U.S. administration. To mention Pollard is not to cite a case but the advanced symptoms of an epidemic which the Americans, it seems, no longer hope to be able to contain.

What might the Reagan Administration be trying to achieve by this form of obviously malicious suppression of Palestinian expression? For the Zionists the mere joy of seeing the name of Palestine erased from one signboard would be divine ecstacy. But what is there in it for the American people and the Reagan Administration? Not a very intricate question. The timing of this outrage is the answer. After a long time, Arab-U.S. relations had begun to emerge from under a dark and cold cloud. How can the Zionists bear this calamity? Hence this spark. A little spark though it is, the Zionists hope to create a merry bonfire out of it. The reaction to this provocation is bound to be bitter and right across the Arab world—what else should the Zionists wish for?

### APS Criticizes U.S. Decision

*LD171735 Algiers APS in English 1335 GMT 17 Sep 87*

[Text] Algiers, September 17 (APS)—The decision of the U.S. Government to close the Bureau of Information of Palestine Liberation Organization in Washington reflects once again an unconditional support to the Zionist thesis and an unbiased [as received] against the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people recognized as such by the whole international community. This decision, in fact, is added to the long list of those who regularly prove the quasi-unlimited influence that Israel exerts on the U.S. Administration through the powerful lobby.

The American decision runs counter the international consecration of PLO of which presence in the capital and the world fora proves a more realistic taking into consideration of the combat of a whole people and its righteousness. [sentence as received] It also runs counter efforts made by world community to favour a just and durable solution to the problem in the Middle East with the participation of PLO.

The liberation struggle of the Palestinian people is as right and just as that led by the American people two centuries ago. To turn a blind eye in face of this reality by deciding to close a bureau is simply a scuttle policy.

### Paper Urges Arab Reply

*JN180846 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0630 GMT 18 Sep 87*

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Sep (WAM)—In its editorial today, the *Al-Ittihad* newspaper called for an Arab reply equivalent to the U.S. decision to close down the Palestinian Information Office in Washington. Such a reply is one of the laws of life both in the field of nature and in the field of politics.

The paper said that Arabs have warned Washington more than once against taking this step and have exerted efforts, but the U.S. capital threw overboard all Arab calls and demands. *Al-Ittihad* described the decision to close down the Palestinian Information Office as logical in view of the fact that the United States is almost the only ally of the Zionist entity. The paper added that U.S. support for the Zionist entity's refusal to recognize the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative also makes the closure a logical decision. The paper says: An opposing Arab stand should be taken without clamor.

Concluding its editorial, the paper warned against the possibility of other steps by the United States if the Arabs do not reply. The paper recalled that President Reagan promised to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel before he left the White House. The closure of the Palestinian office may be a step on this road if there is no opposite Arab reply, the paper added.

## Algeria

### Khellef, USSR's Katushev Discuss Economics

*LD222321 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] An expanded Algerian-Soviet working session was held today at Djenane al-Mithak in Algiers under the chairmanship of Abdelaziz Khellef, finance minister, and Konstantin Katushev, chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. The Soviet delegation is visiting Algeria in order to implement decisions made during President Chadli Bendjedid's visit to the Soviet Union where a long-term and multifaceted program of bilateral cooperation was arranged.

### Energy Minister, Katushev Confer

*LD230343 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Belkacem Nabi, minister of energy, chemical, and petrochemical industries, conferred yesterday at his office with Mr Konstantin Katushev, chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. They reviewed their two countries' relations in terms of energy, chemical, and petrochemical work, and chances for developing bilateral relations in these spheres.

During the talks, it was agreed to bolster meetings, in the form of working groups, between the two countries' experts, in order to further study development opportunities, particularly in chemistry and petrochemistry, before the upcoming meeting of the Algerian-Soviet joint committee.

### Defense Delegation Meets With Weinberger

*LD222124 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Brigadier General Mustafa Chellufi, secretary general of the Ministry of National Defense, and the delegation accompanying him, held a series of talks in Washington with U.S. Defense Department officials, specifically Caspar Weinberger; William Taft, deputy secretary of defense; and Admiral John Whitehead, assistant secretary of state.

The talks, which covered a range of issues of common interest, were attended by Mohamed Sahnun, Algerian ambassador to the United States.

### Italian Military Delegation Departs Algiers

*LD212035 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Text] Algiers, 21 Sep (APS)—An Italian military delegation led by Lieutenant General Roberto Jucci, commander of the Carabinieri, left Algiers this morning following an official visit lasting many days.

During its stay in Algeria, the Italian delegation visited many military, economic, and cultural projects, and held talks with Algerian officials on ways to bolster bilateral relations.

The delegation was seen off at Houari Boumediene International Airport by General Benabbes Ghezaiel, member of the Central Committee and commander of the Gendarmerie Nationale; a number of senior officers of the People's National Army; the Italian ambassador in Algiers; and the Italian military attache.

### Lebanese Shi'ite Leader Departs 22 Sep

*LD222223 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council of Lebanon, left the Algerian capital this afternoon. In a statement to the press, he stressed that his talks with President Chadli Bendjedid enabled him to make a detailed review of the problems affecting the Arab and Muslim people.

## Chad

### Lebanese Troops Reportedly Arrive in Tripoli

*AB230703 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] Yesterday 800 troops of the first contingent of Lebanese mercenaries arrived in Tripoli yesterday. This first contingent of mercenaries includes 250 men of the Lebanese Communist Party; 150 men of the Syrian People's Party; 300 men of the Progressive Socialist Party; 50 men of the [name indistinct] organization; and 50 men from the Lebanese [name indistinct] organization. We learned from reliable sources that the salaries paid to these mercenaries vary between $1500 and $2000 a month for the officers while (?recruits) receive $800 per month.

### Libyan Air Force Overflies Bardai 22 Sep

*AB230642 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] The Libyan slave traders continue to violate Chadian airspace. Yesterday, the Libyan Air Force overflew the town of Bardai at 0515, 0705, 0720, 0830, 1130, and 1715. The overflights of this town in the northern part of our country come at the time when members of the OAU ad hoc committee are meeting in Lusaka, Zambia to find a peaceful solution to the conflict between Chad and Libya. This Libyan attitude clearly proves that the fascist group in Tripoli does not want to respect the cease-fire recommended by the OAU on 11 September 1987.

### President's Arrival in Zambia Postponed

*AB221628 Paris AFP in French 1552 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Lusaka, 22 Sep (AFP)—Chadian President Hissein Habre's arrival in Lusaka scheduled for this afternoon has been postponed until tomorrow morning, it was learned from an official Zambian source. No reason for the delay has been given. Mr Habre is scheduled to participate in tomorrow's deliberations of the OAU ad hoc committee on the Chad-Libya border dispute in the Zambian capital.

The following are already in Lusaka: Omar Bongo, the Gabonese head of state and chairman of the committee; Joaquim Chissano, the Mozambican head of state; Mohamed Abdelghani, the Algerian minister of state at the presidency; and Philippe Mataga, the Cameroonian foreign minister. Senegalese President Abdou Diouf and Nigerian President General Ibrahim Babangida—the other two members of the ad hoc committee—are expected to arrive tonight and late tomorrow morning, respectively. It was not confirmed whether or not Colonel al-Qadhdhafi would go to Lusaka.

### Departs Ndjamena 23 Sep

*AB230625 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] El Hadj Hissein Habre, the president of the Republic, departed Ndjamena this morning at 0411 for Lusaka to take part in the meeting of the OAU ad hoc committee on the Chad-Libya dispute. This committee, which is headed by Gabon's President El Hadj Omar Bongo, includes six member states. Aside from Gabon, the other member states are Cameroon, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, and Algeria. David Kenneth Kaunda, the Zambian head of state, will participate in his capacity as OAU chairman. President Hissein Habre is accompanied on his trip by Gouara Lassou, minister of foreign affairs, and Michel Cloud, permanent secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It should be added that Ivorian Minister of State Alliali departed our country on the same flight for Lusaka, where he will deliver President Houphouet-Boigny's message to President Kenneth Kaunda, chairman of the OAU.

### 'Strange Afro-Arab Cooperation' Viewed

*AB222126 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Station commentary]

[Text] What will happen in Lusaka tomorrow? Six heads of state of the OAU ad hoc committee on the Chad-Libya border conflict—in addition to President Hissein Habre; Al-Qadhdhafi, the dictator of Tripoli; and the current OAU chairman, Kenneth David Kaunda—are expected to meet in the Zambian capital to find a peaceful and final solution to Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's territorial claims on our country, especially the Chadian administrative post of Aozou.

Some 24 hours before this new, historic meeting, there is a lot of speculation on whether some heads of state will attend this meeting or not. As for the two countries concerned, Tripoli will not be officially represented at the meeting, not even by the lowest administrative official. This information came from the [name indistinct] camp, the house where all the devilish Libyan brains reside and the stronghold of international terrorism. Chad will be in Lusaka.

While the highest African bodies are resolutely engaged on the path of establishing peace between Ndjamena and Tripoli, Al-Qadhdhafi is buying the services of Arab soldiers to (?fill the void created) in his Army by the FANT. Walid Junblatt, head of a so-called progressive Lebanese party, has provided 1,000 of his men to Al-Qadhdhafi. He personally accompanied them this morning to Tripoli. Al-Qadhdhafi will in turn send them to northern Chad where they will be killed by the FANT.

These Druze claim to have acted out of Arab solidarity—granted. Walid Junblatt should realize, however, that war in the desert is not like war on the plains. The war between Chad and Libya is far different from the fighting between Lebanese rival factions in the Al-Biqa' plains. Walid Junblatt can take action if he likes, but it is certain that his men will be burned to death.

The second point to be raised about the recent developments in the Chad-Libya war is the blind and unanimous support given by the Arab countries to Tripoli. We have nothing against this but we strongly deplore the ingratitude the Arabs are showing to sub-Saharan Africa. Did the Africans not support the Arabs in their crusade against Israel, which occupies Palestine? Today these same Arabs, who moaned in order to obtain the support of black Africans against the Jewish state, now remain silent and tight-lipped over Libya's aggression against Chad. What strange Afro-Arab cooperation. The Arab states, which have never succeeded in ending the Western Sahara conflict or the Palestinian problem, and which continue to tear themselves apart over the very mention of the Iran-Iraq war, have taken the liberty of declaring their stand on Chad's occupation and outright aggression by the racist Tripoli regime against Chad.

While waiting for some black African states to wake up, the black Chadian people will surely defeat the Arab army of Al-Qadhdhafi and Walid Junblatt. In view of such maneuvers, is it not advisable to establish a league of black African states, although this would be to the detriment of Afro-Arab solidarity?

## Egypt

### Mubarak Interceding in Ethiopia-Sudan Conflict

*PM220909 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 Sep 87 p 1*

[Unattributed Report: "Ethiopia Persuaded To Prevent Rebels From Using Its Territories in Attacking Sudan"]

[Text] *Al-Wafd* has learned from diplomatic sources in Cairo that during his recent visit to Addis Ababa President Mubarak succeeded in persuading Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam to stop all Ethiopian support to the secessionist Sudanese Peoples Liberation Movement under Colonel John Garang. President Mubarak also succeeded in persuading the Ethiopian president to prevent rebels from using Ethiopian territories to launch offensives against Sudanese Government forces. The sources added that President Mengistu agreed to President Mubarak's requests and made the condition that Sudan also pledge to stop both material and moral support for the Eritrean movement fighters.

The sources confirmed that President Mubarak will brief the Sudanese authorities on the results of his talks with President Mengistu. President Mubarak had called for a

tripartite summit among Mengistu, Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, and himself on the sidelines of the African summit held at the end of last July in the Ethiopian capital. Al-Mahdi did not attend because of the battles that broke out between Sudanese and Ethiopian border guards in the area of Al-Maza on the eastern borders [as published]. At that time Egypt was able to persuade the two sides to cease fighting immediately. Since last April Egypt has been seeking to mediate between Khartoum and Addis Ababa in order to settle all outstanding problems between the two states. The sources have confirmed that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will visit Ethiopia next October to resolve border problems between the two states.

### AL-WAFD on Membership in Arab League

*PM220807 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 Sep 87 pp 1, 6*

['Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar report: "Unanimous Agreement, With the Exception of Libya, To End Freeze on Egypt's Arab League Membership"]

[Text] *Al-Wafd* has learned that during his recent visit to Cairo Jordanian monarch King Husayn informed President Husni Mubarak that all Arab states except Libya have finally agreed to include the question of ending the freeze on Egypt's Arab League membership on the agenda of the next Arab summit, expected to be held in Riyadh during October. *Al-Wafd* has learned that the recent maneuvers by King Husayn and UAE President Shaykh Zayid in the Arab arena have led to Damascus and Aden abandoning their hardline attitude toward Egypt. During his visit to Turkey last month Shaykh Zayid met with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, who handed a written message to him from President Mubarak concerning the Arab situation and recent developments in the Gulf war. Sources indicated that the Arab states have agreed in principle not to discuss the Camp David agreements, since they did not change Egypt's Arab approach.

The sources have also stressed the role which Saudi monarch King Fahd played in convincing the Arab states of the need to settle all their outstanding problems and benefit from Egypt's military and political capabilities in deterring Iran, should it expand the zone of the war now going on between Tehran and Baghdad.

The sources added that the GCC states recently exerted economic pressures on some of the states adopting an intransigent attitude toward Egypt in order to force them to abandon their position. The sources indicated that the present Egyptian position toward Israel and the statements made by some Egyptian officials on the "fragile peace" between Cairo and Tel Aviv have helped a great deal in convincing the Arab states of the need to cancel the Baghdad summit's resolutions and restore official diplomatic relations with Egypt. The sources have revealed that efforts are being made by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to persuade the Libyan regime to display some flexibility in its intransigent attitude toward Egypt.

The sources expect President Husni Mubarak to embark on a large-scale Arab tour including a number of Gulf capitals once Egypt's return to the Arab League is officially declared. During such a tour discussions will include ways of confronting recent Iranian threats in order to settle the Arab-Iranian conflict. The sources have confirmed that at the present stage King Husayn seeks to prepare the Arab atmosphere for convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

### AL-WAFD: 'Limited' Cabinet Reshuffle Likely

*PM230933 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 17 Sep 87 p 1*

['Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar Report: "Limited Cabinet Reshuffle Comprising Ministers of Industry, Tourism, Emigration, and War Production"]

[Text] *Al-Wafd* has learned that certain political leaders in the NDP are presently trying to persuade President Husni Mubarak to assume the premiership in the Cabinet to be formed after Dr 'Atif Sidqi's government implements the economic reform program, agreement on which was reached with the IMF last May.

This move is being led by People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr, NDP Assistant General Secretary Hilmi al-Hadidi, and a large number of NDP General Secretariat members. The group's aim is to counter the possibility that the premiership will be entrusted to the NDP general secretary, deputy prime minister, and agriculture minister, Yusuf Wali. Certain advisers to the president have emphasized the necessity of the president's personally supervising the implementation of the second 5-year plan in order to ensure the commitment of all ministries to implementing the projects contained in the plan. Economic reports have confirmed the failure of successive governments to implement the projects of the first 5-year plan.

Informed political circles have confirmed that President Mubarak recently dropped the idea of forming a new cabinet before the middle of next year after reports prepared by economic experts indicated the present government's ability to successfully implement economic reform measures. The circles have also confirmed that President Mubarak is presently looking into the possibility of a limited reshuffle during the next 2 months, covering the ministerial posts for industry and tourism, as well as the post of minister of state for emigration and Egyptians abroad, and war production. In addition, a republican decree appointing a vice president is expected next November.

### Al-Baz Confers With PLO's Hani al-Hasan

*NC211254 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1218 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met last night with Hani al-Hasan, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who is visiting Cairo.

The meeting was attended by Zuhdi al-Qadrah, Fatah representative in Cairo, and PNC member Sa'id Kamal.

An official Palestinian source has stated that the 3-hour meeting dealt with a discussion of developments on the Arab and international scenes, as well as Egyptian-Palestinian relations and the need to strengthen them. The need to develop Palestinian-Jordanian relations and current efforts to convene and international conference for peace in the Middle East were also discussed. [Passage omitted]

### Al-Janzuri Leaves for IMF, World Bank Meeting

*NC220817 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Cairo, 22 Sep (MENA)—Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and international cooperation, left Cairo for London this morning on his way to the United States for a 10-day visit.

In a predeparture statement at Cairo Airport, Dr al-Janzuri stated that during his visit to the United States he will tackle three issues. His first effort will be to reach an understanding with the U.S. Administration on economic aid and its utilization as of the beginning of October. Next, he will negotiate with the World Bank a number of loans totalling $800 million for agricultural, industrial, and electricity projects. Dr al-Janzuri noted that his third task is to attend the joint annual session of the World Bank and the IMF, delivering Egypt's address to this meeting.

Dr al-Janzuri added that he will meet with the president of the World Bank, the managing director of the IMF, and a number of U.S. Administration economic officials.

### Interior Minister Says Terrorists Arrested

*JN171736 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 16 Sep 87 p 1*

[By Yusuf al-Janyini]

[Text] Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr has stated that in the past few days the security forces have arrested all the terrorists. He said that only a few terrorists, no more than four or five, are still at large. Badr added that the arrest of terrorists was not announced because there is a publication ban.

These remarks were made during the conference held in Suez on the day before yesterday to pledge allegiance to President Mubarak. The conference was attended by Major General Tahsin Shanan, the governor of Suez; Nazmi Zayid, president of the Popular Council; and Muhammad al-Burqi, NDP secretary.

### Air Force Commander on New Planes, Training

*NC171833 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Sep 87*

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—A number of French-made Mirage 2000 fighter aircraft arrived at an Egyptian air base this afternoon. This is the final installment of these aircraft under the terms of Egupt's existing contract with France.

Air Vice Marshal 'Ala' Barakat, Egyptian Air Force commander, who received the aircraft, stated that France has approved another transaction on Mirage 2000's for Egypt. Negotiations on financing the deal and on delivery dates are under way, he said, adding that Egypt now has a complete squadron of this sophisticated type of aircraft. He noted that all problems of spare parts and armaments have been resolved and that Egypt has already started to receive the spare parts. Air Vice Marshal Barakat stated that the maintenance of these aircraft will be undertaken by Air Force workshops. He pointed out that a joint study in this field was carried out by the French manufacturers of the Mirage 2000 on one side and the Egyptian Air Force and the Arab Industrialization Organization on the other.

The Egyptian Air Force commander said that the crews of these aircraft had been fully trained in Egypt by Egyptian pilots who had undergone training in France.

He added that the conclusion of the Mirage 2000 transaction means that the Air Force now has an integrated fighting unit. This proves that the capability of these forces to carry out their missions efficiently has been increased, he said.

Air Vice Marshal Barakat said that Egypt has signed a contract for the purchase of pilotless drones which will be displayed at the defense exhibition scheduled for next November. He noted that Egyptian engineers had made several changes to these drones to meet the requirements of the Air Force and the Egyptian climate. He said that a number of Beechcraft anti-pollution and environment protection planes will be delivered to Egypt next year. A squadron of U.S.-built [word indistinct] F-16 fighter aircraft will be brought up to strength by the end of this year, he added.

Air Vice Marshal Barakat pointed out that Egypt is overcoming the difficulties encountered in its Eastern bloc aircraft and that it has succeeded in adapting these planes through the introduction of built-in warning systems and by connecting them to automatic control systems.

The Air Force commander noted that Egypt has cooperated with some Eastern bloc countries by manufacturing spare parts for Eastern-made aircraft in Egypt. This, he added, has helped to prolong the useful life of these aircraft. In this regard he mentioned the Mig-17, which is still operational despite the fact it was first introduced into service 31 years ago.

Air Vice Marshal Barakat stated that the Egyptian Air Force is constantly acquiring new models of sophisticated U.S. planes and modifying existing ones. He said Egypt is currently negotiating the purchase of aircraft that can be refueled in the air and noted that Egyptian pilots are being trained in this procedure night and day.

He said that the introduction of these aircraft, along with the improved Mirage 2000, the F-16, and the F-4, will give Egypt a long arm which will be able to check any aggression and protect Egyptian skies.

In conclusion, Barakat stated that training courses at the Air Force Academy have been improved in view of the fact that aircraft have become an indispensable part of the system. The first group of pilots to be trained under the new program will graduate next year, he said.

It is worth noting that the first batch of Mirage 2000's arrived at Egyptian air bases on 9 July this year. Today's delivery brings the number of these aircraft to 20.

**Soviet Envoy on Trade, Relations with Iraq**
*NC221537 Cairo MENA in English 1459 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Cairo, Sept 22 (MENA)—There is tangible development in Egyptian-Soviet relations, the Soviet Ambassador Gennadiy Zhuravlev said at a press conference here today. There was rapprochement in the points of view of the two countries on international issues, particularly the Middle East and Palestinian issues.

The ambassador said an agreement for trade exchanges in 1988 between Egypt and the Soviet Union would be signed at the end of October. The volume of the exchange was still under discussion. Last year the exchange of trade between the two countries was to the value of 50 [as received] million dollars. It included spare parts for factories which were built by the Soviet Union in Egypt 30 years ago. The ambassador said there was a desire on the part of the Egyptian and Soviet Governments to increase the trade exchange between the two countries.

Discussions will be held to define the projects to which the Soviet Union could contribute as part of the new five-year development plan in Egypt. The ambassador said contracts were signed on September 1 to the value of 100 million dollars to expand the refractories factory in Egypt and renew the chemical sections at the coke factory in Hulwan. According to the ambassador, work is in progress to renew and modernise the Hulwan iron and steel plants.

There were schemes under discussion for agricultural cooperation between the two countries. An invitation has been extended to the Egyptian minister of planning and international cooperation to visit Moscow to discuss those schemes.

At the cultural level, a Soviet ballet troupe was scheduled to visit Egypt to take part in the folkloric festival to be held in Ismailia. A Soviet film week will be organised in Cairo, Aswan and Alexandria next year.

The Soviet ambassador said Soviet foreign policy towards Egypt aimed at restoring and developing relations to the benefit of the two countries on the basis of mutual respect and benefit. The ambassador said complete and mutual confidence was a prerequisite to achieve international cooperation to solve all problems.

The Soviet Union was seeking ways and means to solve problems of the area, he said. He said the best way to deal with the Middle East and Palestinian issues was to convene an international peace conference.

The ambassador said there was no change in Soviet-Iraqi relations. He said relations between his country and Iran were good neighbourly relations.

**World Bank Official Concludes Visit, Departs**
*NC181129 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 Sep 87*

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—Dr Ibrahim Shihatah, deputy chairman of the World Bank, left Cairo for Washington today after a 5-day visit. Dr Shihatah arrived in Cairo on Sunday to take part in meetings of the 63d session of the International Law Institute. He also held talks with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; the ministers of planning, agriculture, electricity, economy, and finance; the Central Bank governor; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. The talks dealt with promoting cooperation between Egypt and the World Bank.

In a predeparture statement, Dr Shihatah said loans will be granted to Egypt in the near future to be used in boosting its development process, noting that the Bank wants to help Egypt as much as possible.

**Request for Sinai Bases Inspection Refused**
*PM181037 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Sep 87 p 1*

[Mustafa al-Safani Report: "Egypt Turns Down Request by Multinational Forces To Inspect Sinai Bases"]

[Text] Egypt has refused to allow multinational forces in Sinai to inspect Egyptian Sinai bases in the border areas near the Tabah-Rafah region, which is supervised by multinational forces.

*Al-Sha'b* has learned that the request covered 14 Egyptian military positions. In their request the multinational forces accused Egypt of siting advanced weapons not provided for in the clauses of the peace agreements between Egypt and Israel.

Egypt considered the request to be unwarranted and the result of Israeli instigation, especially after Egypt rejected the memorandum submitted by Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Moshe Sason, who protested statements made by Field Marshal Abu Ghazalah concerning the large number of Egyptian forces in Sinai.

On the other hand, the Israeli newspaper *Yedi'oT Aharonot* cited an Israeli general as saying that Egypt is still considering the military option for recovering territory

seized from it. An Israeli official referred to the presence of advanced weapons in Sinai and asked the Israeli side to increase its military presence in the border area betweeen Egypt and Israel.

### Israel Protests Sinai Installations

*PM221441 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 17 Sep 87 p 1*

[Unattributed report: "Israel Requests the Formation of U.S. Military Committee To Inspect Egyptian Sinai Installations"]

[Text]*Al-Wafd* has learned from reliable diplomatic sources that the Israeli Government has handed a letter of protest to Egyptian Ambassador in Tel Aviv Muhammad Basyuni. In the letter of protest Israel claims that Egypt is building military installations especially for purposes of supply and support in Sinai near the Suez Canal. In addition, it claims that these installations are capable of accommodating several armored divisions. These activities, according to Israel's letter of protest, contravene clauses of the Camp David agreements and related amendments. Moreover, *Al-Wafd* has learned that Israel submitted another memorandum to the U.S. ambassador in Tel Aviv requesting the formation of a U.S. military committee in cooperation with the multinational forces command in Sinai. The committee would inspect Egyptian military installations.

### Tabah Defense Team Members Visit Disputed Area

*NC180959 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 18 Sep 87*

[Text] Cairo, 18 Sep (MENA)—Members of the Egyptian defense team on the Tabah issue, a disputed area between Egypt and Israel, left on a field visit to the area this morning. The team is led by Dr Nabil al-'Arabi, member of the defense panel and Egypt's chief delegate to the UN European Headquarters in Geneva. The members of the team will take pictures of some locations as part of putting the final touches on Egypt's second defense memorandum, which is to be submitted before the international arbitration panel in Geneva on 12 October.

Dr al-'Arabi said that Egypt submitted its first memorandum on 13 May and that both Egypt and Israel are expected to prepare a third one. He noted that, after the third is submitted, 3 months of hearings on the case will take place, after which the panel will make a decision on the matter.

Dr al-'Arabi is accompanied by Ambassador Badr Hammam, director of Israel's Department at the Foreign Ministry; Ambassadors Ahmad Abu al-Khayr and Husayn Hassunah, experts on Tabah at the Foreign Ministry; and a number of specialists in international law, border disputes, geography, geology, and surveying.

### Security Services Investigate Arms Smuggling

*PM171603 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 11 Sep 87 p 1*

['Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar report: "Security Attempts To Reveal Mystery Behind Israeli Arms Smuggling Into Egypt"]

[Text] Security organs currently are making large-scale inquiries to identify the source of the Israeli-made arms, including machine guns, automatic rifles, hand grenades, and ammunition, which recently have been discovered and probably were smuggled through Egyptian-Israeli borders. Security services also are launching large-scale inspection campaigns throughout the Governorates of Asyut, Qina, and Al-Buhayrah in order to confiscate the largest possible quantities of unlicensed arms.

*Al-Wafd* has learned that the Interior Ministry recently issued strict instructions to all security directorates in the governorates to search for workshops manufacturing arms locally and close them down immediately. *Al-Wafd* also has learned that security services recently found large quantities of 9-mm pistols, automatic rifles caliber .72x39, German rifles caliber 7.93, 9-mm machine guns marked Port Said, and rifles model "Lee Enfield" caliber 303.

*Al-Wafd* also has learned that the Interior Ministry is currently considering the possibility of confining arms licenses to present and former ministers, regular officers, intelligence staff, members of the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, and members of diplomatic and consular corps, both Egyptian and foreign. Arms licenses are expected not be issued to government employees appointed by republican orders or grade-1 decrees as well as retired civil and military employees from director general or major general upward. *Al-Wafd* has learned that Major General Zaki Badr has decided to cancel for the time being the idea of preparing a law plan for combating terrorism and to be content with extending work under the emergency law to use it widely against the regime's opponents.

### 'Extremist' Group Attacks Christian Society

*JN211821 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 20 Sep 87 p 1*

[By Sa'd Zaghlul Sarraj]

[Text] Asyut—Asyut security forces arrested three members of extremist religious groups the day before yesterday. The three had stormed the headquarters of the Salvation of Souls [Khalas al-Nufus] Society, a Christian cultural organization. The three extremists attacked the Society's watchman, who was the only one present at the time. They also shattered the pane of an outside door and destroyed some cassettes.

Asyut Police Chief Major General Hasan 'Ali went to the area and arrested the three culprits in a nearby apartment. They are Ayman Jad al-Rabb, Lu'ay Ibrahim Ahmad, and Shadhili Muhammad 'Ali, students in the Asyut Faculty of Medicine. Investigations are under way.

### Daily Welcomes 'Arafat's Acceptance of 242

*NC181106 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2210 GMT 17 Sep 87*

[Text] Cairo, 17 Sep (MENA)—The *Al-Akhbar* newspaper welcomes the declaration by Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, that the PLO accepts Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 on the Middle East, which he considers a positive step toward solving the Palestinian issue through peaceful means.

In its Friday issue, *Al-Akhbar* states that the taking of this step by the PLO, though belatedly, would remove an important obstacle and eliminate a pretext that Israel has used for a long time—and which the United States has upheld—to prevent the PLO, which the entire world recognizes as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, from participating in any talks related to the Palestinian issue. This also prompted the United States to claim that the PLO's insistence on rejecting Security Council Resolution 242 in particular means that it refuses to recognize Israel's existence and seeks to destroy it.

*Al-Akhbar* says that the PLO's rejection of Resolution 242 gave its enemies a weapon to use against it and provided former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger with an excuse to make his well-known condition that bans any U.S. Administration from holding contacts or negotiations with the PLO unless it accepts this resolution, which emphasizes the legitimacy of the Israeli state. This condition caused a loss of several opportunities for contacts between the U.S. Administration and the representatives of the Palestinian people.

Concluding its editorial, *Al-Akhbar* stresses that the PLO's acceptance of the two Security Council resolutions would serve the efforts being made to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East and enable the Palestinian party to play its legitimate role in any international negotaitions resulting from this conference.

### AL-AHRAM Denounces Closure of PLO Office

*JN211750 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Sep 87 p 7*

[Editorial: "Decision!"]

[Text] The U.S. decision to close down the PLO's information office in Washington can be understood only in light of the great Zionist influence on U.S. decisionmaking. The official excuse that this decision was made to voice Washington's concern over terrorism committed by some PLO factions and elements seems out of tune because the Palestinians have not carried out international terrorist operations for a long time. The opposite is true. Israel and its partners are carrying out continuous terrorist operations against the Palestinians in the camps in the occupied territories and in Lebanon.

U.S. decisionmaking is a very intricate operation that is subject to the influence of pressure groups. It is well known that Zionist influence becomes more active at the beginning of U.S. presidential election campaigns. This proves that the Zionist pressure groups have stepped up activity to deal a blow to an information office that should have been allowed to continue to promote dissipated Palestinian rights before U.S. public opinion. No one is unaware that the PLO information office cannot compete with the Zionist and Israeli propaganda machine.

The decision to close down or open the PLO office is a sovereign U.S. right. The hope was that such a decision would remain above domestic political rivalry because it deals with the essence of supreme U.S. diplomatic interests.

The official U.S. spokesman's statement that the United States will continue to uphold Palestinian rights is not good enough because the U.S. decision contradicts U.S. statements.

What also seems strange is the spokesman's statement that the PLO observer office at the United Nations will remain open and that the U.S. Administration cannot close it down. This statement contains an implicit apology not to the PLO but to the parties that had succeeded in imposing their wishes on Washington.

No one can predict the outcome of the Arab law suits that will be filed in the United States on the constitutionality of this decision. However, this decision has engendered bitterness in the Arab world. This may harm Arab-U.S. relations and interests. It may also bring about violent reactions in terms of foolhardy actions by individuals that will reactivate the vicious circle that was broken thanks to collective efforts.

## Libya

### Envoy To Attend OAU Meeting on Chad War

*LD222015 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1845 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Sep (JANA)—JANA has learned that following contacts between Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, the current OAU chairman, and the brother leader of the revolution, the latter has asked the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison to attend the meeting of the OAU committee [entrusted with mediating the Chad-Libya border dispute] in Lusaka.

### Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Tunisian Minister

*LD221707 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1554 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Sep (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution received Brother Hedi Beccouche, Tunisia's minister of social affairs, and his accompanying delegation during their visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

## Envoy in Paris Discusses Chad Conflict

*PM210911 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 16-22 Sep 87 pp 24-25*

[Interview with Hamid al-Khudayri, secretary of the People's Bureau, by unidentified corrrespondent in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpt] [*Al-Majallah*] In view of recent military developments on the Libyan-Chadian border, and in the face of the danger of direct military confrontation between Libya and France, what is your assessment of the present military situation on the country's southern borders?

[Al-Khudayri] My country has endeavored to restrain itself and has done everything in its power to avoid a direct military conflict with France. However, the Jamahiriyah, like any other independent sovereign state, has the right to defend itself and its borders. If Libyan forces have recently attacked certain Chadian military bases, it was in pursuit of aggressors and in accordance with the principle of the right of self-defense. If France has pledged to safeguard Chad's security, it also ought to respect the security and sovereignty of other neighboring states. Moreover, if France is true to its intentions toward the Arab nation, it ought to be fully aware that defending Chad does not mean inciting Habre to attack neighboring states, and that protecting its rear is truly supporting it and enabling it to indirectly attack others, which is an unacceptable action on France's part.

[*Al-Majallah*] It seems that there is a desire on the part of the Chadian president to drag France into a military confrontation with Libya. Through your relations and contacts with French officials, do you think that this is possible?

[Al-Khudayri] There is no doubt that Habre—along with other powers—is trying to push France into a military clash with the Jamahariyah in order to generally undermine Arab-French relations. This is because France is the only Western state that has a clearly defined and established policy toward the Arab world. We hope that France is fully aware of this and has started to realize that Habre, whom it is supporting, cannot last politically and remain in power except in time of crises. This means that he is unable to lead his country toward peace, tranquillity, and development and that he is continually seeking to carry out further military adventures in order to cover up his regime's domestic difficulties.

[*Al-Majallah*] Do you think that France has lost control of the military situation in Chad because President Habre has disobeyed it and alternately played the French as well as the U.S. card?

[Al-Khudayri] France has a military presence in Chad, protects it, and trains and arms its forces. It was France that recently intercepted Libyan air attacks on Chadian forces' bases, so France bears full responsibility for what is happening in Chad. France is additionally capable of controlling the military situation there. It is obvious that without the French military presence in Chad, Habre could not mount any military action against Libya. The fact of the matter, as far as we in the Jamahiriyah are concerned, is that it is no longer a question of borders; it is more than this, and is merely another round in the struggle against our country through Chad. In our opinion, the Jamahiriyah is targeted not because it has border disputes with Chad—border disputes on the African Continent are numerous and varied—but because it represents the bridgehead of the Arab and Islamic tide surging into central Africa, something which the West fears and Israel disapproves of due to this tide's current return to Africa in force. It [opposition to the Islamic tide] paves the way for its return by attacking the Arab presence in Africa and Arab-African understanding.

[*Al-Majallah*] But there continues to be a military problem on the Libyan-Chadian border, and the war is still continuing. How do you think this war will end?

[Al-Khudayri] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said in his recent speech on the 1 September anniversary that Libya has no wish to fight its brothers the Chadians, and it has no ambitions in Chad—its only concern is to have stability there and establish good-neighborly relations with it. At the same time, we are against Chad being used as a springboard for aggression against the Jamahiriyah. As to how military border operations can be stopped, we can state that our country is facing aggression that we are responding to, so that once the aggression ends the war will end. As for the border issue, it is best dealt with by the OAU and relevant international organizations. We welcome any efforts made in this regard.

[*Al-Majallah*] Does that mean that you in Libya accept recourse to international arbitration on the Aozou Strip?

[Al-Khudayri] Aozou is indisputably a Libyan Arab region as far as we are concerned. Several states andinternational organizations that support our position are well acquainted with the situation in the Aozou region, and we, in turn, know that truth is on our side. International arbitration—if it were to happen—would be in our favor. So we have no fear of international courts' decisions, but we do not see any justification for subjecting a portion of our national territory and sovereignty to international arbitration.

[*Al-Majallah*] In order to put a stop to the present military escalation and settle the situation diplomatically—pending arbitration or mediation—it is necessary to negotiate, so whom would Libya negotiate with? With France, which is protecting Chad, or with Chad itself since it is the direct adversary at present?

[Al-Khudayri] I once again emphasize that, were it not for the French military presence in Chad, Habre would not be able to carry out aggressive military acts against us, nor would he be able to remain in power for a single month.

[*Al-Majallah*] But are there Libyan-French negotiations at present or is there a boycott?

[Al-Khudayri] No, no there is no boycott between us and France; we are in continuous contact with French officials, to whom we have explained our position and emphasized our good intentions. This is while we have alerted them to the fact that France has serious responsibilities concerning events in Chad, since France has a military presence there and is training, arming, and protecting the Chadian forces. We hope that the French will understand the dangerous situation and realize that Habre is seeking to involve them militarily and drag them into a conflict with the Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

## Tunisia

### Romanian Prime Minister Arrives on Visit

*LD211340 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Excerpts] Constantin Dascalescu, prime minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania, arrived in Tunis this morning on a 3-day official visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Rachid Sfar. [passage omitted]

Rachid Sfar was at the head of those welcoming him. [passage omitted]

After a rest in the VIP lounge, Constantin Dascalescu, accompanied by Rachid Sfar and other important people, went to Al-Saada Palace in Marsa, where the Romanian guest will be staying. The two prime ministers held talks attended by Mansour Skhiri, minister of supply, housing, and transport; Slaheddine Be.. Mbarek, minister of industry and trade; Taieb Sahbani, minister of state for foreign affairs; and members of the official delegation accompanying the Romanian prime minister.

### Holds Talks With Sfar

*LD212316 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Text] Prime Minister Rachid Sfar held talks with Romanian Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu in Kasba on Monday. The Tunisian ambassador in Bucharest and the Romanian charge d'affaires in Tunis also attended the talks.

After the talks, a working session was held between the delegations of the two countries, presided over by the two prime ministers and attended from the Tunisian side by Mansour Skhiri, minister of supply, housing, and transport; Slaheddine Ben Mbarek, minister of industry and trade; Salah Ben Mbarka, minister of energy and mines; Mohamed Skhiri, governor of the Central Bank; Taieb Sahbani, minister of state for foreign affairs; Ahmed Ben Arfa, minister of state at the Foreign Affairs Ministry in charge of international affairs; and Elia Kastli, Tunisian ambassador to Romania.

The working session was attended from the Romanian side by Pavel Aron, minister of transportation and telecommunications; Constantin Stanca, deputy minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation; Constantin Oancea, deputy minister of foreign affairs; Dumitru Nicolaescu, deputy minister of petrochemical industries; and (Marin Albu) the Romanian charge d'affaires in Tunisia.

TAP learned from sources close to the Tunisian side that the talks were carried out in an extremely amicable atmosphere. The talks revealed a mutual desire to continue to consolidate bilateral cooperation in all fields, especially in the economic and trade sectors, where they intend to ratify long-term trade exchange programs which will guarantee an increase in the volume of trade.

### Received by Bourguiba

*LD221523 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Excerpt] At the republican palace in Carthage this morning, His Excellency Habib Bourguiba received Romanian Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu, who was accompanied by Pavel Aron, Romanian minister of transportation and telecommunications. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Rachid Sfar; Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, minister of state for interior; Amor Chedli, minister director of the presidential office; Mansour Skhiri, minister of supply, housing, and transport; the Tunisian ambassador in Bucharest; and the Romanian charge d'affaires in Tunis.

The president of the Republic presented the Romanian prime minister with the Order of the Republic First Class and entrusted him with conveying his greetings and best wishes to Romanian President Ceausescu.

After the meeting, Constantin Dascalescu expressed his joy and great satisfaction with the meeting with His Excellency President Habib Bourguiba. He conveyed to him the warmest greetings of the Romanian president and his wishes to him and the Tunisian people.

The Romanian prime minister indicated that his visit to Tunisia is within the framework of cordial and good relations existing between the two countries, and especially between the two presidents. [passage omitted]

## Inter-Gulf Affairs

### Abu Dhabi on U.S.-Iranian Naval Clash

*JN221412 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Iran said today that U.S. helicopter gunships attacked an Iranian commercial vessel in the Gulf. IRNA stated that the ship was carrying foodstuffs and not military equipment. The Pentagon had announced that a U.S. helicopter gunship attacked an Iranian ship planting mines in Gulf waters last night, setting it on fire in a rocket and machinegun attack. Fred Hoffman, a Pentagon spokesman, described the mining of Gulf waters as a violation of international law and an unjustifiable threat to the shipping of all countries [passage indistinct].

Marlin Fitzwater, a spokesman for the White House, stated that the United States acted defensively within the regulations for its forces in the region. In another development, ships were banned from t' area of the attacked Iranian ship because it had planted mines there. Helicopters this morning continued minesweeping operations in the area. [passage indistinct]

## Bahrain

### AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ on Gulf Events

*JN230936 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] Manama, 23 Sep (WAKH)—Bahrain's *Akhbar Al-Khalij* has warned that the Iraq-Iran war— which has now entered its 8th year—is expected to escalate and expand in view of the of ill intentions that aim to destroy all chances of peace and bring the region closer to the brink. In its editorial today, the newspaper said that peace efforts to end the war are retreating, leaving behind calls for fighting and confrontation. The Security Council can only attempt to impose an arms embargo on Iran. If this succeeds, it will not end the war but may contribute to its cessation in the long run.

The newspaper urged that peace efforts to end the war not cease despite the failure of UN efforts. The Islamic countries should continue peace efforts because peace in this region is worthy of all efforts. The newspaper noted that the two regrettable incidents that took place yesterday in the region are a natural consequence of the warring sides' resumption of combat operations to their previous level. This comes at a time when some were hoping that Iran would present a decisive, positive response before the United Nations to the Security Council resolution concerning a cease-fire.

## PDRY

### Ministers Council Discusses Yemeni Unity

*EA230900 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] The Council of Ministers held its regular meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Brother Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, member of the Central Committee, deputy prime minister, and minister of energy and minerals. The Council reviewed orders and decisions issued at its previous session and discussed a number of reports and subjects included on its agenda.

The Council hailed the silver jubilee of the glorious 26 September Revolution in the YAR and expressed heartfelt and warm congratulations to the masses of our Yemeni people both throughout the Yemeni land as well as outside the homeland. It conveyed to the Yemeni people best wishes for their good health, happiness, and social progress. On this great and dear occasion the Council reiterated to every Yemeni citizen its determination to continue the forward march side-by-side with the brothers in the northern part of the homeland. It stated it would pursue careful and practical steps along the road toward reunifying Yemen on a peaceful and democratic basis. In doing so it would be implementing the ideas and aspirations of the Yemeni masses, who have a real interest in unity, for a bright future.

The Council of Ministers discussed a report on the completion of the final accounts for 1986. The report was presented by the chief of the Central Control and Accounting Commission. It takes into account the Council of Ministers plans for 1987. The Council pointed out that accounts are among the most important reports available for the purposes of statistics and planning. They additionally occupy a special place in predicting the outcome of activities and defining the actual financial position of different economic sectors during a specific fiscal period.

The Council of Ministers noted that while some economic units and establishments had adhered to the Council of Ministers decision on the submission of final accounts, other institutions had not. In light of its discussion, the Council of Ministers decided to address critical remarks to the general directors of institutions that have not submitted their final accounts, even for the year 1985. The Council of Ministers asked the supervisors of institutions concerned to prepare written reports on the reasons for their failure to submit final accounts for the period up to 1985 and to forward these reports to the Council of Ministers before the end of December 1987.

The Council of Ministers also reviewed a report presented by the minister of education on preparations for convening the third educational conference. The report dealt with preparations for the conference in matters relating to organization, administration, and publicity. It also outlined the main topics that would be discussed. These relate to the quantitative development of the unified school, the content of teaching, the importance of polytechnical education, discussion of the problems of teachers, their qualifications, teacher training, and the future development of all these matters. The development of fundamental education will also be discussed. The conference will additionally view two other subjects: secondary education and its relationship to primary education, and the development of adult education and its future direction.

The Council stressed that the conference documents should facilitate evaluation and objective analysis of the application and implementation of party and government decisions and directives in the educational field. The Council called on the conference preparatory committees to be well prepared for the conference, to submit conference documents early, and to ensure that it adopts practical, considered, and realistic resolutions that will promote the educational process.

The Council approved the convening of the third educational conference in December this year.

The Council was also briefed on the outcome of the visit of the brother minister of justice and waqfs to the SRV and the participation of our country's delegation in the Vietnamese people's celebration of their national day. It was also briefed on a report concerning the participation of our country's delegation, which was led by the brother deputy foreign minister, in the international conference on disarmament and development recently held in New York. The Council was additionally briefed on the visits that the deputy minister earlier paid to Cuba and Nicaragua. The Council approved the outcome of these visits.

The Council also discussed a number of other subjects and reports on its agenda and took appropriate decisions and measures regarding them.

## Qatar

### Papers View U.S.-Iranian Naval Action

*JN230812 Doha QNA in Arabic 0715 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] Doha, 23 Sep (QNA)—Qatari newspapers *Al-Rayah* and *Gulf Times* today called for reducing tension in the Arab Gulf region resulting from recent attacks on ships in the region. Both newspapers affirmed that expanding the conflict and involving other sides in it are unjustifiable. In its editorial today *Al-Rayah* said that the U.S. attack on the Iranian ship stirred reactions that may lead to further tension and confrontation between the United States and Iran. This may also add fuel to the conflict which has been raging for a number of years and which all sides have been hoping will end. The newspaper explained that such incidents cannot possibly result in anything that is in harmony with the aspirations of the region's nations for an end to this damnable war. The newspaper concluded by urging self-restraint, which is urgently needed under the current circumstances.

The Qatari *Gulf Times* expressed the hope that the General Assembly meetings will create opportunities for implementing Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran. In its editorial today, the English-language newspaper states that the exchange of Iranian and U.S. accusations and the threats of retaliation following the attack against the Iranian vessel will escalate the situation in the region. This is undesirable, and efforts must be exerted to contain this situation and avert its dangers. The newspaper indicated that the new victims of recent incidents are an addition to the many others who were killed in similar incidents against foreign ships. The newspaper urged the current General Assembly session to endeavor to reduce tension. It affirmed that the conflict's expansion and the involvement of other sides in it are unjustifiable. *Gulf Times* concluded by affirming that finding a formula for a cease-fire between Iraq and Iran and a final settlement between them is the crux of the problem. The newspaper said that this depends, as always, on dialogue and persuasion.

## Saudi Arabia

### Official Rejects Khamene'i UN 'Threats'

*LD221955 Kuwait KUNA in English 1750 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] United Nations, Sept 22 (KUNA)—Saudi Arabia Tuesday described as "meaningless" the threats by Iran's President 'Ali Khamene'i in the General Assembly. "We don't fear threats," the Saudi official told KUNA.

Clovis Maqsud, the permanent Arab League observer, spoke of a "missed opportunity" by not complying with the Security Council resolution, calling for a cease-fire.

"It seems Iran is still insisting on preempting the resolution, and this is the unfortunate part," Maqsud said.

Maqsud also described as unfortunate Khamene'i's attempts to "play the secretary-general against the Security Council" which he said was not very persuading.

"This is a missed opportunity for peace, and, therefore, it is for the Security Council now to assess the speech," he said.

The American delegate, Herbert Okun, who also walked out of the hall, told reporters after the Khamene'i speech the accusations made against his country were "a distortion of facts and totally misrepresent our policy.

"I totally reject the attacks made against my government. Such behaviour has no place in the debate among nations," he said.

Regarding Khamene'i's accusations against Saudi Arabia in connection with the Mecca incident in late July, Saudi delegate Al-Shihabi told KUNA they were totally unjustified.

"Everybody knows what happened, everybody knows who committed the crime," he said.

The Saudi delegation, too, walked out of the Assembly as Khamene'i began his tirades.

"I wonder who killed the Saudi security forces and the Saudi civilians in that incident?" he asked.

Al-Shahabi said it was regrettable that the Iranian president brought up the matter once again, now.

Speaking on the same subject, Maqsud said the Arabs and the Muslim world have made their position very clear and it's now up to the Council to decide.

### Statement by UN Envoy

*LD230050 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2340 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] New York, 22 Sep (SPA)—In reply to the statement by Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i to the UN today concerning the tragic incident recently committed in Mecca by some Iranian pilgrims, the Saudi permanent delegate to the UN has issued the following press statement:

In the name of God, the compassionate and merciful:

Press statement:

In his statement today to the UN General Assembly, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran referred to the tragic incident that occurred recently in Mecca during the pilgrimage season. The world understands the truth of this matter. Two million Muslims from all over the world witnessed the first tragic incident of its kind in modern history. They saw the way in which some Iranian pilgrims, on the orders of their government and according to predetermined general directives, demonstrated and incited the Muslim pilgrims during the best days and at the most holy place. The pilgrims, who had come from all over the world, witnessed how the Iranian pilgrims, armed with sharp, lethal tools hidden under their clothing, killed Saudi security guards, Saudi and non-Saudi citizens, and other pilgrims in an attempt to provoke the security forces at the scene of the illegal demonstration. Video tapes have exposed the incident to the rest of the world, as well as how the retreat of the Iranian inciters led to the deaths of hundreds of innocent male, female, and child pilgrims in a stampede. The whole world holds the Iranian pilgrims completely responsible for this.

It is regrettable that untrue, unrealistic, and unfounded falsifications are presented to the UN General Assembly. The truth has demonstrated their fallacy and that they give Iran's attempts to justify these actions no credibility. Saudi Arabia has and will preserve security on its territory, especially in the holy places, and nobody has the right to violate this. Islam supports these principles.

## Yemen Arab Republic

### PDRY Minister Arrives in Sanaa 21 Sep

*JN211423 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Text] Brother Rashid Muhammad Thabit, minister of state for union affairs in the southern part of our homeland, arrived in Sanaa at 1200 today to take part in a symposium on Yemeni-Egyptian relations. This symposium was organized by the University of Sanaa within the framework of our country's celebration of the Yemeni revolution's silver jubilee. The visitor was received by Brother Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for affairs of Yemeni unity; and Dr Abu Bakr al-Qirdi, deputy rector of the University of Sanaa. Rashid Muhammad Thabit is accompanied by Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Amudi, the rector of the University of Aden.

### President Given Letter From USSR Leaders

*JN211354 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office at 1200 today Veniamin Popov, the Soviet ambassador to Sanaa. Popov delivered a letter from the Soviet leadership concerning bilateral ties and a number of international issues of mutual interest. The letter also concerned the U.S.-USSR treaty on medium-range missiles that was signed in Washington last week.

### Baghdad Reports U.S.-Iranian Naval Clashes

*JN230807 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] BBC television, Channel-1 in London, yesterday interrupted its programs and showed footage of the Iranian warship that was attacked by a U.S. helicopter the night before last in the Arabian Gulf when it caught it laying mines in the Gulf. Iran had claimed that the vessel was a merhcant ship.

The film, which was taken by the U.S. Navy, refutes Iran's claim. The film shows sea mines aboard the Iranian ship—sea mines ready to be planted in the Arabian Gulf waters. Citing U.S. military officials, VOA reported last night that another clash occurred in the Gulf waters with an Iranian vessel. VOA reported that the U.S. Frigate *Jarret* fired warning shots at an Iranian hovercraft which approached it to a distance of 1 km.

### Radio Notes U.S. Alert

*JN230841 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] U.S. Defense Department officials have stated that all U.S. forces in the Arabian Gulf have been placed on maximum alert to forestall any Iranian military attempts. The officials said that the United States has determined specific Iranian targets should the Iranians attack the U.S. forces.

The U.S. forces said the nature of the U.S. retaliation against the Iranians will depend on the seriousness and type of the Iranian attack.

The U.S. State Department yesterday placed all U.S. employees working abroad on alert as a precaution against any possible terrorist attacks. A U.S. State Department spokesman said all U.S. diplomatic and consular missions have been notified of the alert because the confrontation between the U.S. and Iranian forces in the Gulf could increase the possibility of Iran launching terrorist attacks against U.S. installations and personnel.

A source close to the Pentagon said a similar warning has been communicated to all U.S. military bases overseas.

### Saddam Husayn Chairs Cabinet Meeting 21 Sep

*JN220851 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has affirmed that throughout history renaissance and progress in Iraq was met with the Persians' challenge and aggression. While chairing a Cabinet meeting the president added that Iraq's destiny is to face the Persian challenge. This challenge has been crushed on this occasion with the exceptional capability and heroism of the proud Iraqis in the second Al-Qadisiyah which raised high the banners of national and pan-Arab sovereignty and pride. We will continue to confront this challenge with high capability and will firmly and decisively crush it, he said, adding that Iraq will also continue the course of progress and advancement.

The Cabinet discussed topics on the agenda and a number of necessary measures were adopted. The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC member; members of the Ba'th Party Regional Command; head of the presidential palace; the ministers; and a number of government officials.

### Saddam Addresses Retired Army Officers

*JN222028 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1706 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn at a ceremony in which he decorated retired officers with the Al-Rafidayn medal, first and second class, in Baghdad on 22 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] Those who see you will say that young men have been retired or that civilian clothes transform the person and make him appear more vigorous. The word retired moves the individual from one state to another. However, I see before me men who are young in spirit. This is the law of life and we can do nothing about it. [passage omitted]

In the 8th year of the war, the aggressor and invader Iranians feel that they are in a critical situation. They also feel disappointment and frustration after discovering that they have been harboring illusions. They believed that they could harm Iraq and make it go backward. They believed that they could sow confusion in Iraq. We thank God that Iraq has men and people. Iraq has men and women who defend Iraq, each from his own position and responsibility and within his ability. These men and women defeat the enemies while developing Iraq.

Every foreigner who visits Iraq expresses surprise, and these foreigners have had broad experience in war. Therefore, they know the meaning of the war, the potentialities it requires, and the negative aspects it brings about. They express surprise when they see that Iraq is not only maintaining splendid steadfastness but that it is carrying out development at the same time. People here are building during the war. They are doing this as if to tell all those who believed the war would halt construction that the Iraqis will erect a lofty edifice on more solid bases than would have been built in peacetime. Those who believed that construction would be halted have been disappointed.

Blessed be the men who are upholding the banner, each within his own field. Blessed be the men who are continuing the march with the same spirit and carrying the banner in accordance with our heritage to defend Iraq. Blessed be the great Iraqi people. Brothers, I thank you for your service in the Armed Forces and for defending great Iraq. May God bless you.

### Ramadan Interviewed on Gulf Developments

*PM220935 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 19 Sep 87 pp 7-10*

[Interview with First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan by Fu'ad Matar in Baghdad on 10 September]

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage omitted] Since all eyes are focused on Tunis and the question whether the Arab League Council is ready to adopt a resolution to boycott Iran should its regime reject Resolution 598, the interview began by asking Taha Yasin Ramadan about what is expected from the next meeting of the Arab League Council at the foreign minister level, bearing in mind that this interview will be published, as agreed, in *Al-Tadamun* for 19 September 1987, that is, 1 day before the Council meets.

He answered: If we carefully examine the statement issued by the Arab League Council at its last meeting, we will find that it is different from previous ones in form, wording, and content and even in respect of differing viewpoints. If the statement had included a resolution to sever relations with the Iranian regime, it would have been possible to say that Arab solidarity had begun to advance. This would have been a sign to the masses that, when faced with danger, the nation reverts to its nobility. Although this did not take place because of points of difference, the proposal raised by some to the effect that one should wait until 20 September 1987 was reasonable, or rather to some extent an acceptable substitute for what is preferable, namely a decisive statement indicating that the meeting was not an open one. We hope the next meeting will be a step forward.

If the UN secretary general returns from Iran saying that it still adheres to its position and rejects the Security Council resolution, then the Arab League Council must decide to sever relations with it. In fact to sever relations before the situation is stated by the secretary general would be useful, since this would help put pressure on Iran and other states which would certainly be affected once they found the Arab position united against Iran to the point of taking a decision to sever diplomatic relations.

I said: If the Arab states decided to sever diplomatic relations with Iran, would there be a plan to ask the Islamic states to do exactly what they did following the Arab states' decision to sever relations with the regime of (former) President Anwar al-Sadat?

He answered: There is no plan, but certainly there are consultations in this regard. It is also certain that any unanimously agreed Arab decision will be accepted when it is presented to an Islamic conference. It is important not to forget that the Arab states constitute half of the Islamic states. However, if a unanimous Arab agreement on a decision is not achieved, especially with regard to severing diplomatic relations with the Iranian regime, then it would be preferable not to present it to an Islamic conference.

I said: Does the first deputy prime minister believe that the Arab view of the relationship with Iran, which is based on the fact that what has been going on between Iraq and Iran is a war between two regimes rather than two nations, might change in view of the Mecca incidents? Does the first deputy prime minister believe that Iraq has not sufficiently explained to the Arabs the nature of this conflict and so many of them have merely offered regrets for the loss of Muslim lives which the war has claimed?

He answered: The Arabs, chiefly Iraq, have sacrificed a great deal in order to bring about a conviction that the intentions of the Persians are evil and that Iran is against the Gulf states and the Arabs. And that while types of government change, this does not negate the fact in question, taking into account that the present Iranian rulers are more dangerous, since they present the issue in a religious form. Iran's fight against the Arabs in the name of Islam divides ranks and splits the Arab position. I would say here that the Iranian enemy is more dangerous than Zionism. [passage omitted] If we review Arab stands we will find that the most dangerous is the Syrian stand. This is with the knowledge that after the occupation of Al-Faw the Gulf states began to be convinced that Al-Asad's only concern is to benefit from Iranian crumbs. Did this result from a misunderstanding of the conflict's nature or other reasons?

I believe the nature of the conflict is understood, but Syria's ruler is the cause. I would add that the Syrian people completely understand the conflict with Iran, just as the Iraqi people understand it. There is much literature clearly explaining the nature of the conflict. Even in Syrian geography books the city of Al-Muhammarah was included among Arab cities. Al-Asad himself condemned Iraq's agreement with Iran on the pretext that Iraq abandoned Arabistan. When Hafiz al-Asad replaced the name Al-Muhammarah with Khorramshahr [in books] and congratulated Khomeyni on entering Al-Faw, this did not mean that the nature of the conflict, which we believe is an Arab-Persian conflict, was misunderstood. Taking into consideration the official and popular position, we are confident that the popular position in Syria will ultimately be in the interest of the Iraqi position.

There are Arab parties that have done nothing for Iraq because of their weakness. However, the problem is with those who are capable and believe that the war between Iran and us is just a war between two Muslim states—which is a very low level of awareness. Besides, what exists in Iran is not Islam, this is a mere slogan.

I said: What lessons have been learned from the Mecca incident? And do you believe the conflict with Iran could develop into a sectarian conflict after it has, thanks to Iraq, been maintained over 7 years as a two-nation conflict?

He answered: I reiterate that the conflict is an Arab-Persian conflict not a sectarian conflict. What exists in Iran is neither Islamic or Shi'ite, since there is no difference between a Sunni or a Shi'ite, though there are many interpretations. In our assessment what is going on in Iran is a different religion committing terrifying acts in the name of Islam and the Ja'farite faith. While Iran is pushing the conflict into sectarianism, attention should be drawn to this conspiracy. I believe many are aware of it.

What happened in Mecca was a plot, it was in no way a demonstration. It was a major plot. Not all the facts have been revealed. For our part, before the haj season each year we monitor statements made by Iranian officials. Our conviction this year right from the beginning was that there was a plot aimed at Arab and Islamic holy places. The Mecca incident confirmed the true dimension of this plot. Although we were confident that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom was capable of destroying this sedition, we hoped the Arab position in general would be better—not in support of Saudi Arabia but in respect of Arab holy places. True, the protection of holy places is Saudi Arabia's duty, but the Arabs' responsibility is greater. What is amazing is that to this very day some Arab parties still believe that maintaining contacts with Iran could in the end secure cordial relations. Our reply to this is that such a view serves Iran. Perhaps Arab brothers will realize this. Perhaps those who adhere to flexibility and ethics in dealings will also see that Iran's rulers consider the Arab side which calls for coexistence with them fearful and weak. These are no ethics at all.

I said: How did the Iraqi leadership feel when news came in of the Mecca incident and were you concerned when you learned about this? Since we have found that the Iraqi solidarity delegation to the Saudi Arabian Kingdom a few days ago included symbols of military significance (the delegation included Lieutenant General Hamid Sha'ban, commander of the Iraqi Air Force and Air Defense Force), can we expect a day of daring battles to be launched as "Mecca day," similar to the "Kuwait day" whose (19 September 1987) strikes yesterday at the Iranian rear were listed in the military communique?

He answered: Obviously we were concerned when we heard of the Mecca incident, especially that this was, in our opinion, a plot not a demonstration. However, we were at the same time certain that the Saudi Arabian Kingdom was capable of easing the situation. We expressed our position and concern in various ways. We wanted to express this practically. Therefore an official party delegation was sent to tell our brothers in Saudi Arabia that any aggression against any Saudi city or village would be considered aggression against Iraqi cities and villages and that Iraq would deal with such aggression in the same way. Arab support is usually expressed in a form of a statement, but with regard to the Mecca incident and Saudi Arabia in particular we wanted to express this in a practical way. Therefore a delegation was formed from party leaders and the Revolution Command Council to confirm that we are ready to translate our position into action and cooperate with them, should they request this.

It is important to point out here that the Iraqi air operations in the Iranian rear, which the military spokesman called "Kuwait day," were an expression or translation of a pledge made by President Saddam Husayn during his meeting with Iraqi students studying in Kuwait. At this meeting the president said: "Inform the Kuwaitis that if a bullet is fired at them, Iraq will fire a thousand bullets in response." Our Air Force implemented the president's instructions, which represented a declared strong solidarity stand and a step that we hope will make Arab stands better stands. [passage omitted]

## Reportage on Visit by USSR's Katushev

### Received by Ramadan

*JN191631 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Sep 87*

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Sep (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received here today K.F. Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and head of the USSR side on the Iraqi-Soviet joint committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation. They discussed ways to expand economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union.

Ramadan expressed his deep satisfaction with the positive outcome of the current meetings which seek the implementation of what was agreed upon during the committee's 17th session. He also stressed the close friendship and cooperation between the two countries, whose leaders are concerned about finding new areas for bilateral cooperation as President Saddam Husayn and Soviet leader Gorbachev agreed at their recent summit.

Katushev also expressed his country's eagerness to continue cooperation with Iraq in all areas and deepen ties of friendship between the two countries' leaders and peoples. He also praised the positive atmosphere that prevailed in the meetings as well as the desire to achieve positive results in the interests of current and future relations. The meeting was attended by Qasim Ahmad al-'Uraybi, heavy industries minister and head of the Iraqi side on the joint committee, and the Soviet charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

### Confers With Oil Minister

*JN211352 Baghdad INA in English 1218 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Text] Baghdad, Sept 21, INA—Iraqi Minister of Oil 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim met here today with chairman of the state committee for foreign economic relations, head of the Soviet side in the Iraqi-Soviet joint committee, Katushev, currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting bilateral relations and work process in oil projects, which the Soviet organisations participate in executing them, were discussed. [sentence as received]

### Signs Minutes of Cooperation

*JN212017 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Sep (INA)—Iraq and the USSR this evening signed the minutes on following up the implementation of the results of the 17th session of the Iraqi-Soviet joint committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation. The 17th session was held in Moscow early last July.

Heavy Industries Minister Qasim Ahmad al-'Uraybi signed the minutes for Iraq, while K.F. Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, signed for the USSR.

Qasim Ahmad al-'Uraybi said that the positive results attained stem from the two countries' desire to promote relations of friendship and cooperation. He added that this is in response to the desire of President Saddam Husayn and Soviet leader Gorbachev to promote Iraqi-USSR relations.

K.F. Katushev voiced his deep satisfaction with the results of the talks. He asserted that these results will help enhance and promote relations between the two countries and strengthen the ties of friendship between the two countries and their peoples.

In a statement to INA after signing the minutes, K.F. Katushev said the results of the talks were very positive and were held in an atmosphere of complete understanding and friendship. The talks aimed at promoting and deepening subsequent cooperation between the two countries in the economic, technical, and scientific fields, he added. He asserted that the topics discussed during the talks are considered a constructive step in bolstering the existing good relations of friendship between the two peoples.

The chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations arrived in Baghdad leading a delegation last Tuesdday.

### Leaves Baghdad 21 Sep

*JN212021 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Sep (INA)—K. F. Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad this evening at the end of a visit to Iraq. During the visit, Katushev met with a number of Iraqi officials and held talks that resulted in the signing of minutes for following up the implementation of the results of the 17th session of the Iraq-Soviet joint committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation.

### Culture Minister Receives Soviet Official

*JN211815 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Sep (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister, met here today with Ashirmurad Mamiliyev, Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic culture minister, who is currently visiting Iraq to take part in the international Babylon festival.

During the meeting, Jasim reviewed Iraq's cultural renaissance and the great progress attained in the field of literature and arts, referring to their continuous development. He attributed this development to the Arab intellect, its accomplishments, and its ability to express the Arab nation's spirit and future.

The Turkmen culture minister expressed his admiration for the great progress Iraq has achieved and for the Iraqi people's accomplishments in the field of literature, culture and arts.

The Culture and Information Ministry under secretary and the delegation accompanying the Soviet official attended the meeting.

## Further on Gulf War Combat Operations

### Lloyds Confirms Tanker Hit

*JN221449 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] London, 22 Sep (INA)—The British insurance company Lloyds has announced that the Iranian oil tanker *Shirvan* [name as received] was hit on Sunday when Iraqi aircraft raided Iran's Khark Island. In a cable to the INA office in London a short while ago, Lloyds said that the 41,495-ton tanker was built in 1979 and owned by the Iranian Shipping Company.

On Sunday an Iraqi military spokesman stated that Iraqi aircraft launched a successful raid on a large maritime target near Khark Island, scoring an accurate, effective hit.

### Communique No 2,838

*JN221705 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Communique No 2,838 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 22 September]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. On the anniversary of the decisive, heroic Iraqi retaliation for the hostile war launched by the racist, covetous Iranian regime, the Zionist agent, on 4 September 1980, our valiant Armed Forces recall with pride the memory of these glorious days and victories as well as the brilliant victories achieved throughout the 7 years of war. The masses of our genuine people stood up in one rank behind the banner of our historic hero, our leader president Saddam Husayn, God preserve him, who led the Iraqi masses with genuine wisdom, unique knowledge, and unmatched courage to safeguard the nation's history and civilization and to maintain Iraq's territory, sovereignty, revolutionary achievements, dignity, and security.

With God's help, the leader's struggle, Iraqis' sacrifices, and the fighters' bravery we were able to keep the promise and emerge from this epic proud and victorious. The enemies were defeated, the dark intentions were destroyed, the shu'ubist ill wind retreated, and Iraq remained for its own people. The edifice of the revolution remained high in the sky and our banner will remain glorious. Praise be to God for His generosity and thanks to God who gave us a great leader from His prophet's offspring—the leader who protects his religion and sacred place, who is loyal to his land and people, and

who struggles to defend his people's well-being. We ask God to preserve our leader, continue his victory, and guide us on the right path. God is our guide and supporter.

The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. In implementation of our people's will to cut off the oil supplies of the aggressors and to prevent them from using them for their aggressive purposes, at 0600 [0200 GMT] today the planes of our heroic Air Force delivered an accurate, effective blow to a large maritime target near the Iranian coast. Our planes then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. In the I Army Corps northern sector three enemy personnel were killed. In the II Army Corps central sector one observation post was destroyed.

3. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, five enemy personnel were killed, one infantry position was destroyed, and four ammunition dumps were blown up. In the VII Army Corps sector, one enemy heavy machinegun was destroyed.

4. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, one enemy observation post was destroyed. In the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces—two ammunition dumps were destroyed.

5. In the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris, one infantry position was destroyed, one large vehicle was damaged, and one ammunition dump was blown up. 6. The evil Khomeyniites shelled residential areas in the city of Basra with long-range artillery yesterday evening and today. As a result, nine civilians, including three women, were martyred, several civilians were wounded, and houses and civilian property were damaged. The criminals also shelled the villages of Khanaqin and Badrah with long-range artillery. As a result, several civilians in Badrah were wounded. In light of all these crimes, we have all the right to use our huge destructive power at the appropriate time to protect civilian lives, security, and property. Paradise to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] 22 September 1987

### Naval Battle Denied

*JN230556 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0540 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Sep (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims that a battle took place between Iraqi naval units and Iranian forces on 21 September. In a statement to INA last night, the spokesman said this news is fabricated by the Iranian rulers and their media. He said this is another of their continuous well-known fabrications that are merely figments of their sick imaginations.

### 12 Killed in Basra

*JN231037 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] Basra, southern Iraq, 23 Sep (INA)—The Iranian enemy resumed its barbaric shelling with long-range artillery on residential areas in the city of Basra and its environs at 0900 [0500 GMT] today. The Iranian enemy fired 416 long-range artillery shells at Basra last night. The shelling continued until midnight last night. An INA correspondent in Basra said the enemy shelling martyred 12 civilians, including 1 woman and 2 children, and wounded 49 others, including 3 women and 4 children. The shelling also damaged a number of houses, schools, vehicles, and private property.

### Jets Raid Kermanshah Installations

*JN231051 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1012 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Communique No 2,839 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 September]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to God. O Iraqis, fighters and builders, your Air Force deservedly enjoys the admiration of the noble people and its victorious leader, may God protect him, for what it achieved and is achieving in terms of missions to defend great Iraq, the Arab nation, and the cause of freedom and peace. Your Air Force today continued to implement the will of the people and their victorious leader in pounding the bones of those who are damned in this life and on Judgment Day—Khomeyni and the evil clique that surrounds him. Your rapacious hawks today carried out the following tasks:

1. At 1200 [0800 GMT] today a violent blow was delivered to the sugar plant in Kermanshah.

2. At the same time our aircraft delivered a new blow to the cement factory also in Kermanshah.

3. At the same time our aircraft delivered a blow to an electricity transformation network in Kermanshah.

After carrying out all these tasks, all of our aircraft returned safely and triumphantly to the homeland, praise be to God. O esteemed citizens, the best thing to say on this occasion is to repeat the words of our great leader yesterday: May God bless the men during the war's 8th year. May God bless this high spirit and firm conduct affirming the values of manliness and struggle on the battlefields and in every task the men are asked to carry out for the people, the nation, and homeland. The fighters of our heroic Air Force and all of our brave fighters throughout the battlefields are all proud of these words that express the conscience of the people and nation. They vow to God, their leader, and the homeland that they will continue to be worthy of their task. It is from God that we derive our success and it is God who assists us.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command

[Dated] September 1987

### 15 Boats Attack Al-'Amiq Port

*JN231055 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1045 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Statement issued by military spokesman on 23 September]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. During the period 2000-2135 [1600-1735 GMT] last night the enemy used 15 boats in an abortive attempt to approach the jetty in Al-'Amiq port. With its customary courage the port's valiant force clashed with the enemy boats and with God's help completely destroyed two boats. The two boats were seen on fire and then disappeared into the waters of the Arabian Gulf. The remaining boats were forced to flee.

May God bless the men of our heroic Navy and the men of Al-'Amiq Port, their commanders, officers, and men.

[Dated] 23 September 1987

### Contract Signed for Saudi Arabia Oil Pipeline

*JN201129 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 20 Sep 87*

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Sep (INA)—Iraq and seven French, Japanese, Korean, and Italian companies today signed a contract for implementing the second stage of the Iraqi oil pipeline through Saudi Arabia.

According to the contract the said companies will build a 1,000-km 56-inch pipeline, pumping stations, berths, and warehouses, thus raising the project's capacity to 1.65 million barrels of crude oil per day. Operation of the pipeline began with the completion of the first stage in September 1985 with a capacity of 500,000 barrels per day [bpd]. The project is one of the big petroleum projects being implemented in Iraq during the war years, a project that has increased the rate of Iraqi oil exports.

Two months ago Iraq completed the second expansion of the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline, thus raising the pipeline's capacity to 1.5 million bpd. With these two projects only, Iraq's oil export capacity will increase to 3.05 million [figure as received] bpd.

The contract was signed by Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi and the representatives of the oil companies.

### INA Editor Urges 'Isolation' of Syria

*JN221406 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] The INA political editor has written a report on the peculiar stand adopted by the Syrian regime at the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council in Tunis on 20 September. In his report the INA political editor affirms the pressing need for a collective Arab stand against this eccentric and suspect regime and its isolation, officially and practically, from the Arab bodies representing the collective will and unity of the Arab countries in the wake of its suspect stands against Arab unanimity.

The INA political editor added that the stands of the Syrian regime's representative in the emergency session of the Arab foreign ministers meeting did not express the Syrian state's national interests nor any higher Arab interests but the discordant Iranian voice, which has infiltrated into an Arab quarter in which all Arab countries express their united, binding, and integral stand against foreign aggression and its expansionist objectives at the expense of Arab territory and sovereignty.

The INA political editor noted the failures of the Syrian regime in its attempt to undermine common Arab action and cause a rift in Arab ranks. He also noted the Hafiz al-Asad regime cannot overcome its political and diplomatic defeat through its usual maneuvers and blackmail attempts.

The political editor affirmed that the Syrian regime's representative objected to the convening of an Arab summit, collective Arab support, and the international stand calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran war as expressed by Security Council Resolution No 598.

Concluding, the INA political editor said: The Syrian regime's isolation, failure, and impotence at this Arab meeting will remain as evidence that Arab consensus can defeat the deviants to safeguard collective Arab action and higher Arab interests. Because the Syrian ruler replaced his affiliation with the Arab nation with the search for an alliance with its enemies, he faces isolation, curses, and failure.

The Syrian regime's representative had objected to the Arab League Council's resolution to convene an extraordinary Arab summit to discuss the developments in the Iraq-Iran war from all angles as well as the continuous theats to the Arabian Gulf states.

### Agreement on King Husayn 'Secret Contacts'

*TA231050 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 23 Sep 87 p 1*

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Over the past year Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held secret contacts—some direct, some through U.S. mediation—with King Husayn, and reached an understanding with him on joint Israeli-Jordanian administration of the West Bank.

The king made approval of the agreement conditional on the convening of an international Middle East peace conference, under whose aegis direct negotiations would be conducted between Israel and Jordan.

Great progress was also achieved in the secret talks on all things involving the principles of the peace process. The Jordanian king explained his fear of Syria's reaction to direct negotiations and of a possible cut in Saudi Arabian economic aid to Jordan as the basis for his demand for a conference.

He told the Israeli leaders that if a consensus were reached in Israel on the conference issue, this would lead to peace in the Middle East and the region "would no longer resemble the preconference area."

*Hadashot* has learned that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir knows of King Husayn's willingness in principle for joint administration of the West Bank, and this is one reason for his sharp opposition to the conference idea. Shamir fears that such an arrangement would harm the status of Israeli settlements in the territories.

In the meantime Peres is continuing to work to promote his plan. This morning he is to meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in New York, with the conference issue as the main point of their talks. It has been learned that the foreign minister's entourage is maintaining secret contacts in an attempt to coordinate a meeting between him and the Chinese foreign minister. Peres considers such a meeting very important because China is supposed to participate in the conference.

### Shamir Renews Settlement Promise to Tehiya

*TA221841 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has again promised the Tehiya faction that he will soon promote momentum to establish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. At a meeting with the faction members, Mr Shamir admitted that there have been delays in implementing the promises he made them 2 months ago.

At the end of the meeting, Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen told our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar that from now on the faction would keep a daily watch over the promises' implementation and that if it observed no action in the field within a few months, it would start a campaign of J'accuse against the Likud in the settlement sphere.

### Shamir Wants Change in Soviet Jew Policy

*TA230619 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has called for a change in the approach to the struggle on behalf of Soviet Jewry and for the main effort to be directed at stymieing the drop-out phenomenon among the emigrants. Israel can no longer be content with the unification of families but must demand that the Soviet Union grant all Jews who wish to emigrate the right to do so, and that their rights be comparable those of Germans residing in the Soviet Union, who are entitled to return to their homeland, Shamir said.

Our correspondent 'Adi Malul reports that the prime minister highly praised the U.S. Government's contribution to the release of Prisoners of Zion and refuseniks, but he said the Jewish nation and the State of Israel must lead the vanguard in this struggle. Mr Shamir made these remarks while visiting the East Talpi'ot absorption center in Jerusalem.

### Peres Meets Poland, Hungary Counterparts

*TA230543 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] Minister Shim'on Peres met with the Polish and Hungarian foreign ministers in New York last night. Following the meeting with his Polish counterpart, Mr Peres told our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer that Israel and Poland are examining the possibility of establishing air links between Warsaw and Tel Aviv. A decision was also made on establishing a joint binational team to plan the events commemorating the 45th anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising. These events will take place next year.

Today Minister Peres will meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in the Soviet UN offices. Peres said he will examine with Shevardnadze reports received from Arab sources indicating that the Soviet Union is now taking a more flexible stand on the issue of the international opening to a peace conference.

### Tamir Reaches Agreements on Pacific Ties

*TA230716 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] Foreign Ministry Director General Tamir met with the governor of Fiji and arranged with him for an Israeli ambassador to be sent to Fiji. The date of the ambassador's arrival has not yet been decided. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that Mr Tamir earlier visited two other Pacific islands—Micronesia and the Marshall Islands—that have recently declared statehood, and with them concluded an agreement on diplomatic relations with Israel.

### Herut Does Not Discuss Expelling 'Amirav

*TA221836 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Herut member Moshe 'Amirav says that senior members of the Herut Movement knew of his contacts

with leading Palestinians. He added that there are Herut members who support his position but at the moment prefer to remain silent. 'Amirav said that eventually these people will be a majority within the movement.

The Herut Secretariat decided not to discuss a proposal to expel 'Amirav from the party, saying that the affair has ballooned all out of proportion.

### AL-FAJR on Closure of U.S. PLO Office

*TA221952 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 20 Sep 87 p 5*

[Editorial: "U.S. Action a Setback to Peace Process"]

[Text] The United States Government finally succumbed to pressure from pro-Israel groups and agreed to close the Palestine Information Office [PIO] in Washington, DC.

This decision was made in spite of repeated statements by American officials as high as Secretary of State George Shultz that closure of the PIO or the PLO UN observer office in New York would not serve U.S. interests in light of its advocation of democracy and freedom of expression and organization.

Nevertheless, the State Department issued the closing order, making the most feeble excuses for doing so. State Department spokesman Charles Redman admitted that the decision to close the PIO had "nothing to do with the breaking of any laws or with any criminal activity." He then went on to explain the decision. "Action was taken to demonstrate our concern with the PLO's continuing association and participation in terrorism. That's what this is about, nothing more," said Redman.

Such an excuse is as nonsensical as most American decisions in regard to the Palestinian question. It is very strange that such a decision comes after the PLO has reiterated a sincere desire for peace. This was made clear at the Nongovernmental Organizations Conference on the Question of Palestine in Geneva. The PLO sent very clear overtures for peace to Israel through the auspices of the Israeli delegation that attended the meeting.

Yet all this doesn't seem to suffice for the United States. Instead of rewarding the PLO for seeking peace (considering that Israel has rejected every peace overture made by the PLO or most of the Arab countries and yet still continued to receive U.S. blessings), the United States Government chooses to give another blow to peace efforts in the Middle East. The U.S. action against an information office operating under U.S. laws and aiming to narrow the gap between the Palestinian and the American peoples, does not further international relations or the friendship of the Palestinian and American peoples.

Every time the Palestinians have shown good will toward the United States and its people, the U.S. Government has returned the favor with a blow to the dignity of not only the PLO as an organization, but the Palestinians as a people. Everytime the PLO makes overtures to Washington indicating its willingness to make the necessary compromises if the U.S. can guarantee the same from Israel for the sake of a lasting peace, the U.S. responds by making additional demands of the Palestinians. This makes matters worse rather than advancing the peace process.

Most Palestinians and PLO factions are opposed to the PLO policy of playing to the U.S. for a peace settlement. They have learned from experience not to expect anything of substance from the U.S. They have learned the U.S. will spare no opportunity to act against the legitimate national and human rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to survive. Arab governments friendly to the U.S. need no longer wonder why the Palestinians have no faith in their policy, pressuring their representatives to the PLO to work toward a tangible strategy, not an imaginary one.

The closure of the PIO is a minor incident when compared to other anti-Palestinian U.S. actions. But no matter how minor the incident, it remains another lesson for the Palestinians to learn: One day Palestinian decision-makers will wake up to the tragic reality in which they live and seek a viable alternative.

### London Paper on U.S. Detention of Yunis

*PM221031 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 Sep 87 pp 1,2*

[Muhammad Sadiq report: "How Was the 'Goldenrod' Operation Carried Out? The U.S. Justifications for Arresting the Lebanese Man in the Mediterranean"]

[Excerpts] Washington—In the first incident of its kind, U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese announced at an impromptu news conference held yesterday at FBI Headquarters that a Lebanese named Fawwaz Yunis, suspected of having participated in the hijacking of a Jordanian airliner in 1985, has been arrested by the United States. [passage omitted quoting Meese and giving sequence of events leading up to the arrest]

Yunis was an Amal Movement member. He was born in Rashadah in the Ba'labakk region and lived in the Burj al-Barajinah area in the southern suburb of Beirut. His younger brother, an Amal militia member, was killed in 1985 in the Beirut battles.

Following the Meese news conference and the announcement of the story, several questions were raised by various sides: Was what the United States did legal? Why announce it now, when the arrest was actually made on Sunday [13 September]? Was it an arrest or a kidnapping operation? What repercussions will Operation Goldenrod have, particularly in relation to acts of violence? The important question is: How was the operation carried out?

According to some available information, a press leak 10 days ago said that a group of European and U.S. intelligence officers were in Cyprus for an operation connected with "hostages and terrorists," but nobody paid any attention to these reports.

When *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* asked one source about the connection between these reports and the operation, he said simply: "Everything is possible" and that there are local groups in Lebanon that cooperate with "action against terrorism."

*Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* then asked the same source: Is it conceivable that the United States acted alone, as Meese claimed? He replied: There can be no doubt that other states as well as local groups assisted in the operation. He said he was pessimistic because the operation would lead to a new cycle of violence. Referring to the operation's political aspects and timing, he wondered: Is there any link between the operation and the closing of the PLO office, and will Fawwaz Yunis be used as a witness in the future when the case of the office closing is brought before the U.S. courts?

In reply to these and other questions, Justice Department officials stated that the operation was legal and precise in every respect. [passage omitted citing Justice Department officials]

### AL-QABAS: Reagan Authorized Arrest

*JN221042 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 20 Sep 87 p 16*

[Text] Washington—An informed U.S. source has told *Al-Qabas* that President Reagan personally approved the operation that led to the arrest of Fawaz Yunis, one of those accused of hijacking an Alia airliner and destroying it at Beirut airport

Attorney General Edwin Meese notified National Security Council Adviser Frank Carlucci, Vice President George Bush, and President Reagan of the details before carrying out the operation. A U.S. court has appointed France Carter as defense counsel for Fawaz Yunis until he appoints his own counsel, if he so desires. Carter said Yunis speaks only Arabic. He also said he believes that Yunis was lured to Cyprus by a U.S. antidrug team on the island. Carter stated that Yunis was then taken aboard a boat and arrested in international waters. Carter also noted that the U.S. court judge will decide this week whether or not to release Yunis on bail until the time of his trial.

### Acting Prime Minister al-Huss Interviewed

*JN211737 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 20 Sep 87 p 19*

[Interview with Dr Salim al-Huss, acting Lebanese prime minister, by an unidentified *Al-Anba'* correspondent—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, we have noticed that you are not dealing with political solutions but everyday living. Is this a sign of weakness or strength?

[Al-Huss] I have previously stated on several occasions that the solution in Lebanon come in stages, the most sublime of which will be the political. Had the scope of a political solution been open, we would not have preoccupied ourselves with economic or other issues since the political solution itself will provide solutions to these other issues. There have been many attempts to achieve a solution in one form or another. For example, we can recall the attempts during the national dialogue in Geneva and afterwards in Lausanne. We can also recall attempts at the government level when the national unity government was formed to implement a specific program contained in the cabinet statement. The government won a vote of confidence on the basis of this. The statement also contained a specific reform program, one that that government failed to implement. After this, talks in Damascus were crowned with the tripartite agreement, which also collapsed. There were also attempts during the time of the late prime minister, Rashid Karami. A government dialogue meeting was held at the racecourse and a sole government meeting at the Mansur Palace, the parliament. Afterwards, talks were resumed in Damascus between the Lebanese side represented by former Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim and the head of the Lebanses Army's intelligence section on one side, and the Syrian side led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the official heading the Syrian Army's

intelligence section in Lebanon on the other. Syria played the role of a mediator between the Lebanese sides to achieve accord. All these were attempts to find a political solution, and all failed. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, you advised President Amin al-Jumayyil through several channels to confine his speech at the United Nations to Israel's occupation of the south. What lies behind this advice?

[Al-Huss] Indeed, I stated my hope that the president's speech at the United Nations will be confined to the issue of the south and the Israeli occupation. There is a single Lebanese issue before the United Nations—the issue of the south, which touches on and affects the fate of Lebanon and the Lebanese. Therefore, it should be at the top of the list of the topics that should be joined and not separated. We would not be exaggerating if we were to say that speaking at the United Nations about any topic on which the Lebaense are not unanimous will add fuel to the fire of tension, division, and conflict. Additionally, such a move will not bring us a single step closer to a solution. The reason for this is that the United Nations is not willing to champion one Lebanese side against another, and it would not be able to do so at any rate.

The issue of the south certainly represents a principal part of the Lebanese issue in view of the danger Israel's occuaption of parts of the south poses to Lebanon's existence and destiny. Moreover, Israel's penetration of the Lebanese arena, especially in the south, threatens the unity of Lebanese society and Lebanon's destiny. This danger is not confined to Lebanon. Israel views Lebanon as the weak link in the Arab chain. If it breaks, Lebanon will break the Arab chain. Thus, the issue of the south is the focus of the Lebanese cause and consequently the Arab cause. If a solution to this issue is achieved through pressure by the international group—to enable the UNIFIL force to implement its tasks in accordance with Resolution No 425—and subsequent Security Council resolutions stipulating the unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory to internationally recognized borders, it will be an important start toward resolving the Lebanese problem. We can even go further than this and say that the issue of the south will, or should, unite the Lebanese. If the Lebanese disagree among themselves on various issues pertaining to their present and future, they do not—or at least they should not—disagree on the issue of the south. This is an issue of right, liberation, and confronting the enemy of the homeland and the nation. [passage omitted]

### PSP Calls for Reopening of Beirut Offices

*NC221836 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Statement issued by the PSP Political Bureau following a meeting chaired by Walid Junblatt on 22 September; place not given]

[Excerpts] The PSP conducted an in-depth discussion of the regime's continuing policy of making the various sects of the people bear the brunt of the political and social crisis. The Political Bureau maintains that the decision to lift the subsidy from gasoline, which was imposed as a fait accompli, is a natural result of the regime's policy designed to reduce the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people to famine. [Passage omitted]

The PSP Political Bureau discussed Amin al-Jumayyil's visit to the United Nations on the pretext of presenting the Lebanese cause. The Bureau maintains that Al-Jumayyil's visit is part of his campaign to raise funds from imperialism and Western reaction to support his factional plan, which is hostile to the Lebanese people and homeland. Al-Jumayyil, who has been isolated for years from the principal nationalist political forces and who was imposed on the country by an Israeli decision, does not represent Lebanon or the Lebanese. He has become the main stumbling block in efforts to end the Lebanese crisis.

The PSP Political Bureau warmly applauded the spontaneous national enthusiasm demonstrated by a group of citizens from the mountain and other national areas who volunteered their symbolic participation alongside the fraternal Libyan forces in the defense of Arab Libya. They are seeking to reinforce genuine national solidarity among Arab strugglers on every front and in every way. The Political Bureau notes that an initiative of this kind shows the humble desire to participate and the deeply-rooted patriotism of the Lebanese nationalists, who continue to fight one of the most significant pan-Arab battles in Lebanon. The Lebanese nationalists reiterate that all those nationalists who stand fast in the face of the imperialist onslaught on the Arab arena are united in the fight and in their destiny. [Passage omitted]

The Political Bureau discussed the situation of the noble Armenian sect in West Beirut. The Bureau takes the view that the adverse conditions that this and other sects are experiencing are a cause for national concern. It affirms its support for the sons of the Armenian sect, noting that events have shown this sect's national affiliation and devotion to Lebanon's unity to be genuine. The Political Bureau calls for all efforts to be marshalled to ensure that Beirut remains the capital of all sects without exception. [Passage omitted]

After reviewing the situation in Beirut and the popular moves there, the PSP Political Bureau wishes to remind all concerned that restrictions must be lifted from political and party work. The national parties must regain their main offices, as this would have a favorable effect on the work of the Liberation and Unification Front and would help to guide the popular and national battle toward its positive objectives.

### Syrians Arrest Top Brotherhood Officials

*NC221159 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] According to reports from the north, Syrian forces are pursuing protagonists of the Islamic Unification Movement and the Muslim Brotherhood organization

on the outskirts of Al-Dinniyah and 'Akkar. According to security sources, Syrian forces have arrested two Muslim Brotherhood organization senior officials: Bassam 'Ali 'Abd al-Ghani and Ahmad Abu Dawud.

### Amal Releases 5 Syrian Soldiers

*NC221209 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Text] Tension and a state of alert currently prevail in positions held by Syrian forces and an Amal group belonging to 'Aqi Hamiyah [Amal military official].

The latest casualty toll, according to a report from the southern suburb [of Beirut], indicates that the Syrian forces have suffered one dead and two wounded, while two of Hamiyah's loyalists have been killed and six wounded. These last include one dead and one wounded from the Zu'aytar family and two wounded from the Baydun family.

According to security reports, Hamiyah refuses to surrender the persons who carried out an attack on a Syrian position in Burj al-Barajinah, as well as those who fired shots at three Syrian troops near the Ghazi Baydun stores in 'Ayn al-Sikkah. The reports add that, following mediation efforts, five Syrian soldiers were released this morning.

Hamiyah has urged Minister Birri to intervene and end the acts being carried out by an Amal security apparatus under the leadership of Abu Husayn Baddah, who is loyal to Mustafa al-Dirani. These acts were the cause of yesterday's clashes, which necessitated Syrian intervention.

### Meeting Between 'Arafat, Paqraduni Cited

*NC221215 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] In Damascus, the *Ila Al-Amam* magazine, organ of the PFLP-GC, led by Ahmad Jibril, has reported that Yasir 'Arafat met secretly with Karim Paqraduni [deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces] in Baghdad 2 weeks ago. Citing informed Arab sources, today's issue of the magazine states that their discussions centered on coordination between Palestinian and Lebanese Forces' security entities and indirect cooperation with members of Israeli Intelligence, Mossad. The magazine affirms that the purpose of this coordination is to disturb security in Lebanese areas under Syrian forces' control and to pave the way for the nomination of Samir Ja'ja', commander of the Lebanese Forces, for president in next year's election.

### Organization Claims Violence Campaign in Egypt

*NC230535 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] In Beirut a group calling itself the Revolutionary Crescent Organization [Munazzamat al-hilal al-thawriyah] has claimed responsibility for attacks on U.S. diplomats and two former Egyptian ministers and for the burning of a Coptic library in Asyut last week.

The organization threatened to destroy all those who attack Islam and obstruct the application of sharia in Egypt. It also declared that it will destroy the Israeli Embassy in Cairo. The group announced that its leader arrived in Beirut last week to begin what it described as the struggle against the United States, Israel, and Egypt.

## Damascus Notes World Reporting of U.S. Attack

*JN221431 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] The Arabian Gulf—U.S. helicopters attacked an Iranian cargo ship in international waters in the Gulf at 2330 last night in a new escalation of tension in the region. Tehran radio cited a responsible Iranian source this morning as saying that an Iranian ship carrying foodstuffs was attacked by U.S. helicopters while en route to an Iranian port last night. He said that the attack set the ship ablaze, noting that it was not equipped with any defensive means. The source added that no information was yet available about the extent of damage sustained by the Iranian vessel. He said that the bodies of four of the ship's crew had been found and that four others were injured as a result of the U.S. attack.

In Washington, REUTER cited the U.S. Defense Department as saying that a U.S. military helicopter had attacked an Iranian ship in the middle of the Gulf with machineguns and rockets, setting it ablaze. The Department said that the attack took place 80 km northeast of Bahrain at nearly 2100 GMT and claimed the ship had been laying mines.

The White House last night confirmed the attack of the U.S. helicopters on the Iranian ship. Presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said that the U.S. forces took what he called a military measure against an Iranian ship in the Gulf Monday evening. He claimed that the ship had been laying mines in international waters 50 miles northeast of Bahrain.

Edward Djerejian, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, said that a U.S. helicopter had attacked an Iranian ship. He reported that the United States is currently holding urgent consultations with its allies. In a speech delivered at Georgetown University, Djerejian said that a clash had taken place between a U.S. helicopter and an Iranian ship. He explained that the United States will inform all concerned countries of how and why the incident took place. Replying to questions after the speech, Djerejian asserted: We are currently holding urgent consultations with our allies, including Britain, France, and other states. We will inform concerned countries in the Middle East of the reasons for the measure we took. He added: I am sure there will be consultations with the Soviet Union.

The U.S. television network CBS said that a helicopter from the guided-missile frigate *Jarrett* fired missiles at the Iranian ship. The network, which interrupted its normal programs, cited naval sources in the U.S. Department of Defense as saying that helicopters opened fire on the Iranian ship.

In Iran, Iranian Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani threatened today to avenge the U.S. attack on an Iranian ship in the Gulf. He said that those who had entered the region with force will quickly regret their actions.

AP cited an IRNA report monitored in Nicosia as saying that Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced before the Iranian Parliament that the U.S. Navy helicopter attack on the Iranian ship will not pass without retaliation. Hashemi-Rafsanajani described the U.S. accusation that the ship was laying mines in the Gulf as sheer lies. He said: We knew from the start that the United States was planning evil acts in the region. He affirmed that the attacked ship is a cargo ship. He affirmed that those who had entered the region with force and carried out evil acts will soon regret their actions. He added: We warned them many times, but they claim, unashamedly, that they are in the region to protect their security. He continued: The Americans' aggression at this time will overshadow the speech to be delivered by Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i before the UN General Assembly later today—a speech that will sum up Iran's stand on the war with Iraq.

In New York, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said that the U.S. helicopter attack on an Iranian ship in the Gulf showed the dangers of naval reinforcements in the Gulf. Commenting on the U.S. attack, the Soviet minister said: For this reason we are against any military presence in the Gulf. He affirmed that naval reinforcements complicate the situation.

In Moscow, TASS called for the need to move from talking about peace in the Gulf to adopting effective steps to end the tension there. The agency said that toppling the pro-U.S. regime of the shah in Iran prompted America's agents in the region to move and set the region ablaze in retaliation. The agency added that 10 days after the beginning of wide-scale military operations on the Iranian-Iraqi border, there was talk in Washington about freedom of navigation in the Arabian Gulf. Under this pretext they began to dispatch U.S. naval forces to the Gulf. Under the cover of the Iranian-Iraqi dispute, the United States hurried to organize what is called the Rapid Deployment Force and to form a special command for supervising military operations in the vast area surrounding the Arabian Gulf to increase the U.S. military presence.

In Washington, U.S. Defense Secrtary Caspar Weinberger affirmed that the U.S. Administration should maintain its naval presence in the Arab Gulf region. Weinberger added that the Gulf region was, is, and will continue to be a vital area for the United States and its allies.

## Paper Decries 'Piracy'

*JN230748 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The U.S. Piracy in the Gulf," *Al-Ba'th* says: Sound reasoning and world public opinion cannot accept the U.S. Administration's attempts to create pretexts and imaginary stories to justify its armed aggression against the Iranian supply vessel in the Gulf waters. This is especially true since the world at large fully realizes that U.S. and NATO military concentrations in the Gulf have been nothing but a source of

tension threatening the region with unpredictable dangers. It is both ridiculous and surprising for the U.S. Administration to resort to the pretexts of international law and the slogan of peace.

*Al-Ba'th* affirms: We reject the U.S. story because we and international public opinion have a number of firm pieces of evidence to refute U.S. claims. Foremost among these is the fact that although Washington and its allies mobilized the most sophisticated types of minesweepers we have not heard of any of these military machines ever finding or detonating a single mine. Therefore, where are these old and new mines that justify what the United States has said about the mission of the stricken Iranian vessel?

The paper concludes: Regardless of the various U.S. claims, the Pentagon and White House had no right to commit the treacherous aggression against an Iranian ship. How can any observer balance what President Reagan said about international law justifying his action and the flagrant armed aggression that took place yesterday? How can we correlate this aggression with the claim by Washington's UN representative that his country wants to maintain peace? One wonders which law they are talking about and which peace they want to maintain? It is the law of piracy and the peace of aggressors that every nation fighting for its freedom and dignity can confront.

## Austrian TV Interviews Defense Minister Talas

*AU231004 Vienna Television Service in German 1815 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Hans Benedict report on the Iran-Iraq conflict, including a videorecorded interview with Major General Mustafa Talas, the Syrian defense minister; date and place of interview not given; questions in English with Talas' answers recorded in Arabic with superimposed German translation]

[Excerpts] [Benedict] [Passage omitted] Syria's defense minister, General Mustafa Talas, confirms the permanent state of tension on the Golan Heights.

[Talas] We are constantly strengthening our military positions on our side. The enemy, for his part, is also expanding his positions on the other side of the Golan Heights.

[Benedict] Last April, amid new rumors of war, Soviet party chief Mikhail Gorbachev uttered the decisive word. During the visit of Syria's head of state, Hafiz al-Asad, Gorbachev stated that war was out of the question and that there was no military option. The conflict had to be solved by political means, he said. Talas, however, makes clear that although Syria is militarily dependent on the USSR, it is not its satellite.

[Talas] We are linked by strategy and friendship, but we do not necessarily agree with all and everything Comrade Gorbachev says. We are an independent country. We, in Syria, see the situation as follows: If an international Middle East peace conference does not yield results that are acceptable for us, we will have no other choice but to use all military and political means to solve the problem. Then, the fighting will go on until justice is established. [Passage omitted]

The Soviet Union is a big power with a lot of strategy. We, in Syria, have our own strategy. That is why we do not agree with the Soviet Union in every respect. The fact that the Soviet Union is also giving military support to Iraq sets us thinking, in particular, because there is obviously also Soviet interest in Iran.

[Benedict] Husayn of Jordan and Al-Asad of Syria—partners at one time, opponents at another. Al-Asad is blocking Husayn's plans for direct negotiations with Israel, but both of them want to exclude PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat.

If Israel's two most important Arab neighbor states were to pursue the same policy, we could have a peace conference very soon, could we not?

[Talas] Nobody in Syria, neither worker nor peasant nor any other citizen, can imagine that our government will engage in bilateral negotiations with Israel. This is impossible. These are rumors but never the truth. We, in Syria, adhere to the premise that negotiations are possible only within the framework of an international conference. This conference must have absolute power of decision concerning all parties on the basis of their agreement. For us this means agreement with all Arab states, but not in the way that Israel wants. If this is not possible, our country will remain partly occupied and nothing will change.

[Benedict] What you are saying is that PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat is superfluous at a peace conference and that you do not want 'Arafat to participate, neither him personally nor a Palestinian negotiating team assembled by him.

[Talas] We do not have any intention to block an international peace conference. Actually, it is totally unimportant whether 'Arafat participates or not. What is important is that the conference is attended by that man who is able to prevent a peace conference from deviating from its aims—this is our President Hafiz al-Asad. Let us remember: It was President al-Asad who, at the Arab summit in Fes, saved the Palestinians from remaining without any protection and prevented the summit from deviating from its aims and capitulating. We defended the Palestinians' cause. Who is 'Arafat? He is nothing more than a puppet in the hands of the United States.

[Benedict] Twice Jordan's Husayn foundered on Al-Asad—concerning negotiations with Israel and the idea of reconciliation between Al-Asad and Iraqi head of state Saddam Husayn. The conflict between Saddam and Al-Asad prevents Arab unity for a Middle East peace conference.

[Talas] King Husayn's task was extraordinarily difficult. He had to deal with two men—one who is speaking what his heart says and one who is speaking in the language of the U.S. secret service. Therefore, one cannot expect any rapprochement between Al-Asad and Saddam. Saddam's regime must be eliminated. Saddam must be overthrown. We wish very much to achieve unity between Syria and Iraq. So far Saddam has prevented this. I am speaking on behalf of President al-Asad when I say that this unity will put an end to the war between Iran and Iraq. [Passage omitted]

[Benedict] One question in our interview was not answered by Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas; namely, whether Mikhail Gorbachev's preference for a political Middle East solution means that the Soviet Union would indeed refuse to arm Syria against Israel in that area where a war can be won or lost, that is, in the air. On this topic Talas quoted the duty of secrecy. [Passage omitted]

**Faruq al-Shar' Returns From Tunis Meeting**
*JN211426 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus late last night after heading the Syrian delegation to the meetings of the emergency session of the Arab League Council in Tunis on 20 September.

**Al-Zu'bi Confers With PDRY's Al-Sa'di**
*JN101922 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 515 GMT 10 Sep 87*

[Text] Damascus—People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud al-Zu'bi this morning received a PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium delegation under Dr Muhammad 'Awad al-Sa'di, YSP Central Committee candidate member and member of the Supreme People's Council Presidium. Al-Zu'bi welcomed the guest delegation, wishing them a good stay and a successful and useful visit to Syria. Afterwards, they exchanged talks about bilateral relations, particularly parliamentary relations, and the situation in the Arab region.

The People's Assembly speaker reviewed the most important current issues and the stands taken on them. He explained the dangers and challenges posed to the Arab nation. He especially touched on events in the Arab Gulf and the escalation and intensification of the situation regarding the U.S. and Western fleets under the pretext of safeguarding navigation in the Gulf. In this regard, Al-Zu'bi stressed the need to consolidate joint Arab cooperation and to rally all Arab resources to confront these dangers and challenges. He referred to the importance of consolidating ties, especially on the parliamentary level between the two fraternal countries. He also referred to the importance of exchanging expertise as well as coordination regarding all issues of common interest on bilateral, Arab, and international levels.

Al-Sa'di expressed his and his delegation's happiness at visiting Syria and the welcome and hospitality accorded to them. He expressed great admiration for the comprehensive developmental, cultural, and progressive achievements in all economic, social, cultural, and other fields under the leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and its secretary general, comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad. He also praised Syria's brave stands and principled, relentless struggle to serve Arab causes and confront the aggressive forces and their conspiratorial plots against our Arab nation. He stressed the need to consolidate the brotherly ties, particularly in the parliamentary field. He also stressed the need to exchange visits and delegation as well as to cooperate in all areas serving joint issues on Arab and international levels.

**AL-BA'TH on 'U.S. Base' in Egypt**
*PM181335 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 10 Sep 87 p 2*

['Abd al-Karim 'Abd al-Rahim article: "Ra's Banas Is a U.S. Base"]

[Text] The Egyptian authorities have allowed the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force [RDF] to remain indefinitely in Ra's Banas on the Red Sea coast after completion of the RDF exercises there. This clearly means that Ra's Banas, to which massive U.S. military equipment and RDF units are being sent, is now a U.S. base overlooking the Suez Canal entrance and controlling that Arab waterway, while the U.S.-NATO buildup continues unabated in the Arab Gulf.

However much the Egyptian media and officials try to defend the "joint exercises" idea in the wake of the Bright Star exercises concluded last month, they will never be able to convince Egyptian patriots that these exercises are in any way beneficial to Egypt's military strength. The Egyptian media had claimed that the Egyptian regime would not allow or accept any U.S. military bases on Egyptian national soil, but successive events confirm that the U.S. troops and equipment have not left the Egyptian ports and airfields which received them last August. They are staging more exercises in September and are staying indefinitely in Ra's Banas. This confirms that the U.S. exercises have developed into a political mandate over Egypt as part of the general U.S. scheme to turn the Arab homeland into a group of protectorates.

After the frigate *Stark* incident, Washington began to mobilize its naval forces in the Arabian Sea and the Arab Gulf, claiming that its aim was to protect the waterways and the region's resources and in so doing safeguard Western industrial interests. But then it went further and emphasized that it would not withdraw its fleets from the region even if peace is achieved tomorrow. It has now deployed forces in Ra's Banas, Egypt, and will never withdraw from there, having gotten the Egyptian authorities' permission to stay indefinitely.

This U.S. presence in various parts of the Arab homeland, coupled with the massive concentrations in the Mediterranean, means that the United States seriously

wants to impose its trusteeship on the Arabs to be able to peddle a settlement on Zionist terms, bearing in mind that occupied Palestine is an arsenal of U.S. arms and ammunition and a staging post and maintenance station for U.S. fleets in the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, and the Arab Gulf.

Observers of current developments can clearly see that Washington's aims in the region are mainly to strike at the centers of steadfastness, liberation, and resistance to open the way for direct negotiations and separate capitulationist agreements to pave the way for the fulfillment of the prime U.S. objective of imposing U.S. protection on the Arabs, exploiting their economic circumstances and the gaps opened in the Arab homeland through the Camp David agreements, and ultimately reviving the old mandate, but this time in the form of U.S. protectorates.

As it pursues this policy in the Arab world, Asia, and Africa, Washington should carefully reconsider its calculations and reexamine the history of this region where the Arab masses foiled its liquidationist designs in the fifties and where the national steadfast alliance frustrated its plans after the invasion of Lebanon. Our nation's fighters, from Egypt to the Gulf, are capable of defeating the policy of force and of protecting the nation's eternal independence.

## Economic Crisis Having 'Serious Repercussions'

*NC201203 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 20 Sep 87*

[Text] The magazine *Al-Nahar al-'Arabi wa al-Duwali* reports that the economic crisis in Syria has begun to have serious repercussions and that the Syrian Government has taken several measures to cut down on expenditures. These include the withdrawal of some of the Syrian forces from Lebanon, the cancellation of certain security and military procedures within Syria, and the suspension of periodic military exercises.

Citing informed sources, the magazine reports that the Syrian regime is in a state of unprecedented weakness and that it is contemplating measures to limit expenditures in all state institutions. According to the same sources, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has made exhaustive efforts to form a new government, but his attempts have failed because of disagreement over the steps that should be taken to deal with the economic crisis.

## Afghanistan

### Najib Addresses Hazarah Assembly

*LD212127 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1720 GMT 21 Sep 87*

["Concluding" speech by Najib, PDPA Central Committee general secretary, at the 21 September closing session of the Hazarah nationality assembly held at Kabul Polytechnic Institue—recorded]

[Text] Dear compatriots, esteemed Hazarah brothers. The first assembly of the people of Hazarah is completing its work. [passage indistinct] All participants of the assembly expressed their deep and sincere interest in seeking ways to establish peace in the land of the Hazarah people and the [word indistinct] development of the areas in which they live. [applause] This was the most fundamental and historic outcome of our meeting in Kabul. For the first time the country's leadership met with the representatives of all the provinces, districts, and areas in which the Hazarah peoples reside. For the first time in the meetings of Hazarahs, peasants and artisans, private entrepreneures and traders, ulema and religious personalities, doctors and engineers, workers and military men came together under one roof in a friendly and sincere atmosphere. [applause] I express with special interest the fact that for the first time the Hazarah and representatives of state power spoke in a language of truth, so that this meeting had a special and effective character. All of us believe that the measures taken at the assembly should be implemented. The state leadership pledges to provide necessary conditions for this. [applause]

National reconciliation is bound to succeed, and the historical land of the Hazarah people will be announced as a region of peace. [applause] The people of Afghanistan are weary of war. They are tired of the futility of war. They are in constant fear for the lives of their children. War eliminates our future from its roots. War disables our youth and takes them from us. War hardens human hearts and damages our national economy. The work of the national reconciliation policy should thus be improved. Letters and messages should be sent to the opposition. Hold peace assemblies and invite the opposition to peace. Inform them of the decisions of the first assembly of the Hazarah people. This assembly is the confident guarantor of the Hazarahs' prosperity and pride. Explain to them what damage the cursed war inflicts. Help them to realize our noble efforts for the cause of peace.

We invite you from this platform to distance yourselves from conspirators, murderers, and extremists. If you live in a foreign country, return home. Reject from your regions any extremist groups linked to abroad. Take an active part in the administration of your affairs. Remember, dear friends, to take the words of peace and truth, words that overwhelmed this assembly, to your villages and abodes. Remember that the people of Hazarah have put their trust in you for their future.

I would like to say a few words about this future. The people of Hazarah enjoy honor and pride they [word indistinct] in the length of centuries in the mountainous land of Hazarahjat. [applause] The Hazarah are capable of many kinds of difficult work. They work with love and interest and show great skill in their work. They toil in collectives in a spirit of fraternity and with a love of work. In accordance with this character and their values, the people of Hazarah are duly respected by the people of our country. [applause] The great opportunities that have been and are being put at the disposal of the toiling Hazarah people should immediately become the cause of Hezarehjat's economic, social, and cultural development. [applause]

Utilization of the gains of modern agricultural technology, the construction of irrigation systems, and the fundamental growth of a technical and financial foundation in the agricultural sphere meet the Hazarah peasants' long-standing aspirations for rich harvests and green grazing lands. [applause]

The Hazarah Mountains have rich natural resourses in their hearts. The scientific and industrial surveys of these resources (?enhance) the Hazarehjat economy. Logical utilization of water resources provides the possibility for villages and districts of Hazarahjat to benefit from low-cost electricity. [applause] Noticeable changes will occur in the sociocultural sphere. The teaching of children in schools and timely medical assistance will be transformed into an inevitable fact of your life. [applause] The popular culture of the people of Hazarah will be revived and developed. The broadest strata of the people will benefit from newspapers and books, radio and television. All this can only be achieved through the broad participation of the Hazarah people in their self-rule. [applause] All of us know about the heroic struggles the people of Hazarah have undertaken for the independence and sovereignty of the homeland, as well as what sacrifices they have given for freedom. [applause]

As all of you know, the DRA's new draft constitution is being publicly discussed. Necessary attention has been paid in this draft toward the just solution of social problems and the national question. For example, Article 12 of the Constitution states: The DRA is a multinational country and the state follows the policy of all-round development of the understanding, friendship, and cooperation of all the nation's nationalities, tribes, and clans for the purpose of maintaining political, economic, social, and cultural equality and the speedy growth and development of backward areas from the socioeconomic viewpoint. The state prepares the ground for the creation of administrative units on the bases of national characteristics. [applause] Thus the brothers of the toiling Hazarah nationality could have a bright future. Their interests, like the interests of our homeland's other nationalities, will be observed. In solving this question, the first step will be the creation of local administration units, including authorized representatives of the people of Hazarah who have been democratically elected.

We will assist in establishing coalition forms of administration at all levels of state power in the Hazarah people's areas. We back any initiative toward developing forms of local administration, provided it contributes to the cause of implementing the national reconciliation policy. [applause]

The creation of self-defense groups will help obstruct extremists' activities in Hazarahjat. State forces will not carry out military operations in villages, districts, and provinces that have been declared peace or neutral regions. [applause] An authorized party and state commission has been created to resolve these issues together with a council of the toiling people of Hazarah. [applause]

Dear friends, all the hopes for a prosperous future for all Hazarah people will be transformed into facts. [applause] These wishes can be implemented in line with the issue of national reconciliation, which was brought about by the people of Afghanistan for the consolidated friendship of nationalities, fraternal tribes and clans, and for the unity and cohesion of all true patriots. These wishes will be transformed into truth in the interests of our children and our grandchildren. It is our duty to spare no effort in using our energy and utilizing our expertise and experience for constructing a new Afghanistan. [applause]

We are certain that the toiling people of Hazarah will make strides on the way to peace.

Long live the first national assembly of the Hazarah nationality, the guide to peace in the long-suffering territory of Hazarahjat. [applause]

Long live the friendship and cooperation of Afghanistan's people. [applause]

Long live the unshakable Afghan-Soviet friendship. [applause]

Long live our beloved homeland, dear Afghanistan. [applause]

### Session Concludes 21 Sep

*LD211929 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Excerpts] The first nationwide assembly of the Hazarah nationality, which was opened yesterday at Kabul Polytechnic Institute amid mutual understanding and to implement the national reconciliation policy, has successfully ended its work today by issuing a resolution and messages.

At the concluding session of the assembly, Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, delivered a speech and assessed the results of the work of the Hazarah nationality's nationwide assembly.

Today's session was attended by Haji Muhammad Chamkani, acting chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council; Comrade Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers; a number of Politburo and Secretariat members of the PDPA Central Committee; heads of departments of the PDPA Central Committee; vice chairmen of the Presidium of the Revolutionary Council and the Council of Ministers; the chairman and members of the National Front's executive delegation; heads of social organizations; representatives of the fraternal nationalities; a number of high-ranking officials of the Armed Forces; Ajmal Khatak, the outstanding poet and struggler of Pashtuns; (Khay Bakhsh Marai), social personality and an outstanding leader of the Baluch people; (Mawlana Mazharrul Haq), a religious personality and well-known leader of Kurram Agency; and ambassadors and diplomats residing in Kabul. [passage omitted]

The following items were also unanimously approved at today's assembly session: a message of the nationwide assembly of the Hazara nationality addressed to the secretary general of the UN organization and read by Sayyed Sadi Naderi; a message addressed to the ICO and read by Sayyid Muhammad Awaz Sadiqi; a message addressed to His Eminence Ayatollah Khomeyni, the religious leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and read by Shaykh Muhammad Azim Ahmadi; and a message addressed to his Eminence [Iranian Ayatollah] Kho'yi.

The assembly's resolution was then read by Muhammad Azaz Nabizada, secretary of the Central Council of the Hazarah nationality, and was unainimously approved. [passage omitted]

### 19 Reported Killed by U.S.-Made Missiles

*LD230824 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] Kabul, September 22, *BAKHTAR*—A number of innocent people were martyred as a result of another crime perpetrated by the opposition extremists in Shindand District of Herat Province.

Our correspondent reports from the district that the savage attack carried out by using U.S. made surface-to-surface missiles left 19 persons dead including ten children in a region of the said district in the weekend.

The extremists attacked a few days ago on Gardeyz city of Paktia Province and set on fire a congregational mosque in Dowlatabad District of Balkh Province with surface-to-surface rockets supplied by the U.S. Administration to the Afghan opposition extremist groupings who have stationed in the territory of Pakistan.

Meanwhile, according to our correspondent's dispatch from Qandahar Province, an extremist group including its ringleaders has been crushed by the security forces in Spin Buldak District, bordering Pakistan.

The security forces resorted to reply action when their demand was rejected by the group to lay peacefully their arms down.

## Bangladesh

### Ershad Sets Up Committee on Tribal Problems

*BK191829 Dhaka Domestic Service in English*
*1530 GMT 19 Sep 87*

[Excerpt] President Ershad has formed a high-power national committee on the tribal area, headed by Planning Minister A.K. Khandokar. The six members of the committee are Foreign Secretary Nazrul Islam; general officer commanding Chittagong Major General M.A. Salam, High Commissioner to India Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury, Director General in the Foreign Office Jamil Majid, and Commissioner of Chittagong Division Ali Haider. The committee will discuss, with all concerned in matters relating to the tribal areas and make recommendations for the consideration of the government.

The president named the committee during a meeting with the tribal leaders in Chittagong today. He had a free and frank exchange of views with them. President Ershad assured the tribal leaders of his government's sincere desire to solve the problems of the tribals in order to ensure a lasting peace in Chittagong Hill Tracts. Prominent among the tribal leaders present at the meeting were Chakma prince, Devashis Roy, Mr Gautam Dewan, Mr K.S. Pul Chowdhury, Mr Nakul Tripura, Mr A.K. Dewan, Mr Phanibhushan Tripura, Mr Ulapul Chowdhury, Mr Upendralal Chakma, and Mr Charubikash Chakma. [passage omitted on Ershad's visits to other sites]

### Fund Established for Flood Relief

*BK211007 Dhaka Domestic Service in English*
*1530 GMT 20 Sep 87*

[Text] The government has adopted a package of measures to mobilize additional domestic resources to help overcome the situation arising from the current devastating flods. Announcing the steps at a news conference in Dhaka today, Finance Minister M. Syeduzzaman said the fund thus collected will be utilized for import of foodgrains and for repair and rehabilitation of the damaged infrastructure.

A fund of 115 crore taka will be raised through these measures which were approved by the Council of Ministers at a meeting yesterday. The measures include surcharge on income tax—6 percent; excise duty on cinema halls, hotels, restaurants awd soft drinks—5 percent; and cigarettes, cheroots, and liquor produced in the country—10 percent. Four percent levy has been imposed on the interest of all kinds of savings and fixed deposits in banks; general savings, fixed, and bonus accounts in post offices; dividends and profit of all kind of shares; and telephone and telex bills.

Deductions at the rate of 2.5 percent will be made from the monthly basic salaries of all those civilian gazetted officers, commissioned officers of the Armed Forces, officials of the semigovernment autonomous bodies, corporations, and money lending organizations whose monthly basic salary is 2,000 taka and above. Cabinet ministers, state and deputy ministers have also voluntarily decided to deduct 10 percent to the fund from their basic salaries. The measures will be effective from next month and will continue till the end of the current financial year. An ordinance to this effect is being promulgated.

The finance minister said the extensive damage caused by the unprecedented floods was estimated at more than 3,000 crore taka at the meeting. He said substantial aid and response have been received from the different donor countries and international aid giving agencies. Meanwhile, 350,000 tons of additional food aid has been arranged. The minister said relief materials supplied by different government and nongovernment organizations have been estimated at about $12 million. In addition to this assistance received in (?kin) and cash by different government and nongovernment organizations including Red Cross will be about $3 million.

## India

### Houses Near Golden Temple Searched 23 Sep

*BK230415 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*0240 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] The security forces, this morning, searched the residential buildings around the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar. The district police chief, Mr Izhar Alam, told the All India Radio correspondent that 15 suspects have been rounded up. He said that some arms and ammunition, along with incriminating documents, were recovered during the search.

In Faridkot District one dreaded terrorist was killed and seven hard-core terrorists arrested in separate encounters last night. In two other encounters in Faridkot District, 10 terrorists—6 of them dreaded—were arrested by the police along with a large quantity of arms and ammunition. Ludhiana District police arrested a dreaded terrorist and recovered some arms and ammunition.

### Gandhi Views Regional Situation, Indian Military

*BK211702 Delhi Domestic Service in English*
*1530 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that Indo-Sri Lankan agreement has contributed to the preservation of security in the South Asian region as a whole. He said the security of the South Asian region will be best served by each country adhering to the principles of nonalignment. Mr Gandhi was addressing the joint army commanders' conference in New Delhi today.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that while the global situation has relatively stabilized recently, developments in India's neighborhood are causing concern. He referred to the volatile situation in the Gulf and said more than 100 warships of different nations are plying in the Indian

Ocean at a stone's throw distance from our shores. Mr Gandhi reaffirmed India's commitment to improve its relations with neighboring countries and to solve outstanding issues by peaceful negotiations.

He spoke about India's efforts to improve relations with China and said the two countries have an important role in the contemporary affairs.

Mr Gandhi, in his address, covered a wide range of national and international issues. He said the threat to the country's security is not only from outside, but also from within. He pointed out that terrorists are being supported by outside agencies who are training them and supplying arms and ammunition. This, he said, has added an important dimension to the task of maintaining the unity and integrity of the country. He asserted that the nation is determined to combat these divisive forces with all its might and frustrate the evil designs of a handful of extremists.

Praising the country's armed forces, the prime minister said they have displayed a degree of coordination between the three services. He underlined the imperative need for achieving self-reliance in defense matters to consolidate our independence. Commending the efforts of our defense scientists in the field of research and development, the prime minister stressed the need for converting the basic research and development efforts into a proven production line process.

In his address, the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, impressed upon the commanders to maintain a high operational readiness through maintenance, training, and modernization of equipment. He said all efforts will be made to provide the armed forces with the best equipment. Referring to his recent visit to the forward areas, he said the morale of our troops is the highest.

### New Taxes Levied To Meet Drought Situation

*BK2004477 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Sep 87*

[Text] The government has announced fresh taxes to raise over 540 crore rupees to finance drought and flood relief measures. Announcing this in New Delhi yesterday, the finance secretary, Mr Venkataraman, said 220 crore rupees will be raised through direct taxes and 250 crores from customs duties in the current year. Over 70 crores will come from surcharge on air and rail fares. These measures will not affect the poor, low-, and the middle-income groups. Mr Venkataraman said a surcharge of 5 percent will be imposed on taxpayers whose total taxable income is over 50,000 rupees a year. This surcharge will be levied for an assessment year, 1988-89, only. A similar surcharge will be imposed on all corporate profits and taxable income above 50,000 rupees for 1 year.

Mr Venkataraman also announced a surcharge of 10 percent on wealth tax for the assessment year 1988-89. He said appropriate legislative measures will be introduced in due course.

A surcharge of 5 percent ad valorem, by way of increase in auxiliary duty, has been imposed on all imports, except crude petroleum and items that are currently exempt from auxiliary duty. A 10-percent surcharge on the domestic airfares and a similar increase of air-conditioned and first class railway fares will also be imposed.

Replying to questions by newsmen, the finance secretary said the expenditure on account of drought and flood relief measures is expected to be around 1,300 crore rupees. The effect of drought will continue till June next year and the expenditure can go up. He said the government is continuously working to mobilize more savings and cut down expenditure wherever possible.

## Iran

### Reportage, Comment on U.S. 'Attack' on Ship

#### Rezai'e Vows 'Decisive Blow' to U.S.

*LD221758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Following the U.S. attack on an Iranian ship, Mr Mohsen Rezai'e, commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps, answered questions posed by the Central News Unit correspondent in an exclusive interview this afternoon.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Mr. Rezai'e, please let us know your views on the U.S. attack on an Iranian ship?

[Rezai'e] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Last night at about 2330, the United States initiated a new aggression in the Persian Gulf region and attacked and damaged with helicopters and other aircraft one of our supply and logistics ships as it sailed from Bandar-e 'Abbas to Bushehr in international waters. There were human losses— martyrs and injured—and the ship sustained major damage. This aggression is certainly the start of a direct war and U.S. involvement against our people.

We have announced and demonstrated a great deal of patience and forebearance and have shown our nobility in the Persian Gulf region. We previously announced that if the United States wants to start an aggression here, we will respond firmly. So far, we have kept strict control over our fighters so they will not start anything. They have controlled their nerves. However, now the time has come when we, God willing and with God's assistance, will deliver a decisive blow to the United States. We are certain that U.S. history has never witnessed such a response. The whole world will learn that the United States has been the main agent of insecurity and instability in the world, that it is the main agent of tension, and that it is the hidden hand that becomes directly involved in action whenever Iraq is powerless. The United States should be certain that we will respond in the near future.

Our people should be prepared. This event demonstrates that they are serious about putting pressure on us, whether their intention is to overshadow the great visit of His Excellency Mr Khamene'i, our esteemed president, and prevent the great political consequences of his visit, or they think that the Security Council may name Saddam the aggressor. With this attack, they want to say that Iran has not gained victory, but have forced Iran to accept their conditions. Whatever their reason, we cannot leave this U.S. action unanswered and, God willing, we will respond to it.

Our people should be prepared. God willing, by the end of this year [20 March] we should train and organize 2 million armed youths in the second stage of the 20-million-strong forces, and have them in reserve. These are, of course, in addition to the forces that are already trained.

This year 2 million more trained and armed youths will be added to the fighters of Islam. They will be part of the reserves. They will be trained; they will be organized; their arms and ammunition requirements are being prepared. This year we will greatly increase our human reserves and our fighters. We expect all the martyr-nurturing people to fully prepare themselves and take part in these training exercises, which will be announced in the near future and whose agendas will be brought to everyone's attention, so that, God willing, we can initiate the second stage of the 20-million-strong armed forces, as we have in previous years.

[Correspondent] Thank you. [end recording]

### WIH Spokesman on 'Right of Reprisal'

*LD221944 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 22 Sep 87*

["Obstruction of Help and Siege of Attacked Ship, Signs of Continued U.S. Agression"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—The U.S. is continuing its aggression against Iran by preventing help being rendered to the crews of the attacked cargo ship *Iran-Ajr* as well as towing it towards its fleet in the area.

Announcing the above, a spokesman of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) said today the Iranian ship had 30 crewmen aboard, of whom five were martyred and four injured as a result of the U.S. unprovoked attack.

The U.S. shoulders the responsibility for the safety of the kidnapped Iranian crewmen, said the WIH spokesman calling for an immediate delivering of the bodies of martyrs and the survivors of the Iranian cargo ship to Iran.

Any U.S. blocking of tugging of the *Iran-Ajr* by Iranian boats will be considered as continued U.S. aggression, he said adding the act will follow Iran's reaction. The *Iran-Ajr* is at present besieged by the U.S. fleets, he noted.

The WIH spokesman concluded by stressing that the Islamic Republic reserves 'right of reprisal' against this obvious U.S. aggression.

### Cabinet Assails 'Attack'

*LD231042 Tehran IRNA in English 1039 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 23, IRNA—The Cabinet ministers in a session here Wednesday morning discussed latest national and international developments including the U.S. attack on an Iranian supply ship Monday.

The Cabinet deplored the attack and said it was carried out despite efforts of Iran to ease the tension in the Persian Gulf region. It emphasised the necessity of the Iranian nations' readiness to confront the U.S. plot.

Minister of Culture and Ershad Eslami Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Khatami who chaired the session referred to U.S. hostility towards Iran and said that the attack has heightened the tension to the highest possible level and opened a new phase in the sacred defence of Iran.

The Iranian nation, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khatami added, through reliance on God, has left behind more difficult stages and has come out proudly. Undoubtedly, he added, this crucial stage will lead to an eventual victory and will bring further humiliation to the U.S.

### U.S. Interests Representative Summoned

*LD221811 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1651 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Following the barbaric attack by U.S. military helicopters against a cargo ship of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Persian Gulf, a Swiss Embassy official in Tehran, in his capacity as the representative of U.S. interests in Iran, was summoned to the Foreign Ministry by the director general in charge of the Directorate of Political Affairs for the Americas and European Countries.

Following a strong protest by the Islamic Republic of Iran against the recent move by the United States in the Persian Gulf, a strongly worded protest note was delivered to him. This protest states: The Islamic Republic of Iran regards this U.S. measure—which took place in international waters—as a flagrant violation of shipping security in the region. While strongly protesting and condemning this hostile act, it says that this measure has intensified an already acute fire in the region.

Referring to the continued mischief by U.S. forces in preventing the rescue teams of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy to operate, it stressed: The responsibility for the safety of the lives of the crew and the wounded, as well as the consequences stemming from tension in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, rests with the U.S. Government. While condemning tension created by U.S. forces, the Islamic Republic of Iran regards it as its legal right to take necessary measures to defend its national interests.

### 'Iran Ajr' Carried Military Cargo

*LD221719 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—Five of the 30 crewmen on board the Iranian cargo ship *Iran Ajr*, which was attacked by U.S. helicopters Monday, have so far been martyred, an informed military source said here today.

He said the ship was owned by the Islamic Republic of Iran's shipping company, and was in the service of the Iranian Navy in the international waters. At the time of the attack the ship was carrying goods for military forces stationed at the southern port of Bushehr.

### Commentary Assails U.S. Role

*LD221414 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1111 GMT 22 Sep 87*

["First" political commentary: "The United States, the Main Agent of Tension in the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] By attacking an Iranian ship last night, the United States has added a new dimension to the increased tension in the region. After being attacked by a U.S. military helicopter in international waters, the ship was set on fire. The White House in Washington issued a statement officially accepting responsibility for this aggressive act. The attack on the ship took place at a time when, only a few hours earlier, U.S. President Reagan, in a speech in the UN General Assembly, described as unhelpful the remarks that the presence of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf will lead to the intensification of tension.

The United States, which began its presence in the Persian Gulf after the 20 July approval of Security Council Resolution No 598—thus clearly violating Article 5 of that resolution—at first resorted to the fictitious excuse of wanting to escort Kuwaiti tankers and to preserve security in that international waterway. However, the increasing presence of its forces in the Persian Gulf and the pressures exerted on its NATO allies to enter the region demonstrates that the United States is following other goals.

Observers who follow the events of the imposed war believe that there is a connection between the time when Resolution No 598 was approved, the presence of foreign forces in the region, and the military position of Iraq, because the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf began precisely at a time when there were clear prospects for an Islamic victory and when, despite the expectations of world arrogance, the military balance in the region had been changed in favor of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It was this fact that led the Americans to prevent the downfall of the Baghdad regime by despatching military forces to the Persian Gulf. Confirmation of this view is seen in Reagan's assertion at the UN General Assembly that the United States is pursuing a path which would ensure that there will be no winners and no losers in the Iran-Iraq war. This, in fact, means that Saddam should not be punished as being responsible for the imposed war.

For this reason, after sending more than 20,000 Marines to the region and dragging other countries such as Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands into the Persian Gulf, the United States bared its teeth and claws and, by a show of strength of its military forces, tried to use the forces under its control as a lever to pressure the Islamic Republic of Iran to accept the unconditional imposition of Resolution 598.

However, the powerful and logical diplomacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran—as demonstrated by the visits of our deputy foreign minister to New York, West Germany, and Italy and which assumed special importance with the visit of the UN secretary general to Iran—defeated the efforts of arrogance to impose the Security Council resolution upon Islamic Iran, as well as the propaganda blackmail of new imperialism which tried to portray the Islamic Republic as a warmonger.

The political moves by high-ranking officials of our country and their unanimity in announcing the clear position of the Islamic Republic of Iran that, above all, the aggressor should be identified, and also the announcement that Islamic Iran seeks a just solution to the imposed war, aroused a great deal of discussion in political circles. It led eminent figures such as the current president of the Security Council to support the position of Islamic Iran in identifying the aggressor.

It is difficult for some Western countries, particularly the United States, to tolerate the diplomatic success of Iran on the international political scene. As a superpower, the United States expected that its views would be implemented and regarded. The implementation of its demands to enforce Resolution No 598 as it was drawn up, before the visit of the secretary general to Iran, confirms its pessimism regarding the success of that visit. The United States stated that if the visit were not successful and if Islamic Iran did not completely accept the resolution, the second stage of the Security Council resolution should be carried out.

Now that the world is waiting to hear the words of the president of revolutionary Iran and, just when the legitimate positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the imposed war are to be raised, we again witness the creation of tension in the Persian Gulf by the United States. Unwilling to see Islamic Iran's demands being implemented, Washington is trying by various means to portray the Gulf as a tense area. Iraq's attacks on tankers in the Gulf and the revelation of the United States' role in those issues, and now the direct attack by a U.S. helicopter on an Iranian ship all demonstrate the United States' desire to create tension there. The attack on the Iranian ship on the anniversary of the imposed war conveys the message that, despite the passage of 7 years since the military aggression of world arrogance against the Islamic Republic of Iran, their hatred and animosity have not abated and the criminal United States is the main enemy of the Muslim Iranian nation. This message again invites the Muslim people of our country to greater preparedness for a possible clash with world arrogance.

However, Washington should know that an attack will not go unanswered and that Islamic Iran will give a most decisive answer to this clear aggression. U.S. politicians should also know that if the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran are endangered, U.S. interests in all parts of the world will be threatened.

## Further Reportage on UNGA Meeting

### Khamene'i Meets Nakasone

*NC230601 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Recorded telephone report from New York on Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i's meeting with Yasahiro Nakasone, prime minister of Japan; date not given]

[Text] Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Mr Yasahiro Nakasone, prime minister of Japan, who attended the 42d session of the UN General Assembly as heads of their respective delegations, met and talked in the presence of their foreign ministers.

During this meeting, held at Mr Khamene'i's residence in New York before his speech to the session, Mr Nakasone expressed his country's interest in the continuation of friendly relations and good cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Mr Nakasone, whose country is now among the [words indistinct] members of the Security Council, said of the war: We are aware of the Islamic Republic's views on the war and we have tried to convey your stands at the Security Council. He described the secretary general's efforts as positive and expressed Japan's support for them. Mr Nakasone added: We are aware of the damages caused by this war and know that the Islamic Republic of Iran wants a just peace. Referring to the U.S. attack on an Iranian ship in the Persian Gulf, he expressed his condolences and sympathies to the families of those who were killed.

Mr Khamene'i referred to the expanding relations between the two countries during Mr Nakasone's term of office, and said: We consider you and the Japanese nation as friends and thank you for your efforts to [words indistinct] the Security Council resolution [words indistinct]. Your policy has been one of (?nondomination) in the Persian Gulf and we approve of it. This is diametrically opposed to the policy of the U.S. [words indistinct] in the region. Mr Khamene'i added: The United States wants to create tension in the Persian Gulf. The U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf is seen as [words indistinct] (?threat) against the area's future. The U.S. attack on the Iranian cargo ship is an extremely dangerous incident which resulted in the martyrdom and wounding of several, (?while some were taken as captives). Our people are extremely enraged about this and will not tolerate it. From the beginning, we knew that the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf would inflame the region; hence, our decisive opposition to this presence. Any government (?interested) in peace in the Persian Gulf should oppose this presence. The president of the Islamic Republic added: The United States is trying to draw other countries into the Persian Gulf. For this reason, it has been [words indistinct] (?since last year) and your government (?is expected) to adopt a decisive stand against the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf. Mr Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, added: (?A U.S. military presence cannot solve the Persian Gulf problem.) The solution lies in the withdrawal of foreign forces and a halt to attacks on ships. The Japanese foreign minister brought up these very issues during his recent trip to Baghdad, but Saddam's regime opposed this. The policy that the United States has adopted will most assuredly lead to an explosion in the Persian Gulf.

At the end of this meeting, the Iranian president referred to the UN secretary general's visit and said: In our opinion, Mr Perez de Cuellar's visit was successful and we view it positively, while the Americans oppose such efforts in the region and consider them a failure. They want to prove that a solution can be found only through the way that they have chosen—(?playing with problems). They are used to getting things done by force and by (?bullying). The U.S. attack on the Iranian cargo ship is also an example of this. Do they think that the attack can remain unanswered?

Mr Khamene'i then mentioned the Islamic Republic's readiness to cooperate with the UN secretary general and said that this cooperation can be useful only when incidents harmful to the region are prevented. The Mecca massacre, during which a large number of innocent men and women were killed, or the U.S. attack on the Iranian cargo ship yesterday aggravate the atmosphere. These two incidents show that, contrary to its assertions it is seeking peace and ensuring security, the United States is trying to draw the region into a dangerous confrontation.

This is the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United Nations, New York.

### Khamene'i Sees Perez de Cuellar, Genscher

*NC230619 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i met with UN Secretary General Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar at UN Headquarters in New York last night. During this meeting, which took place some hours after our president's important speech to the 42d session of the UN General Assembly, the Islamic Republic's just stands on ways to end the war and bloodshed were explained to the UN secretary general.

Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i also met with FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. During this meeting, which was held at Mr Khamene'i's residence in New York, international issues of mutual interest were discussed.

Immediately after his meeting with Perez de Cuellar, Mr Khamene'i met and talked with the president of the Security Council at UN headquarters.

### Velayati Meets PRC Foreign Minister

*NC230626 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] Our Foreign Minister Mr Velayati met with PRC Foreign Minister Mr Wu Xueqian in New York yesterday. During this meeting, they discussed and exchanged their views on the latest developments in the imposed war and the situation in the Persian Gulf.

### U.S. Pressures Allies on Boycott

*LD211756 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Text] London, Sept. 21, IRNA—With little prospect of the United Nations (U.N.) being steam rollered into an arms embargo against Iran, the U.S. is reportedly turning up pressure on its allies to prevent military sales through unofficial means.

Reports from the U.N. suggest that Washington is fighting an increasingly impossible task in getting the Security Council to act unilaterally against Iran and is believed to be now placing greater emphasis on other options to stall an imminent Iraqi defeat.

According to *The Wall Street Journal* Monday, the Armed Services Committee in the U.S. has acknowledged that it is now putting "heat on, as many places as possible" to stem any flow of munitions to Tehran, even though it suggests that has not met with much success.

The committee additionally is said to be mounting a major diplomatic campaign with Iraq's closest Arab ally Kuwait leading efforts.

Attention is seen focused in the West's collective defence pact of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) agreements that automatically permit transfer orders within the 16-member group.

The paper further suggests that the conspiracy net is trying to extend its efforts to other places including Yugoslavia, Singapore, Pakistan, Kenya and Argentina.

## Reportage, Comment on War Week Activities

### Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speech

*LD221442 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Simultaneous with the start of War Week and the seventh anniversary of the imposed war, personnel of the Armed Forces paraded throughout the country today. As in other towns and cities, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, IRI, marked the first day of the sacred defense week in Tehran with parades and ceremonies. During these ceremonies, held at Tehran's Azadi Square and in the presence of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, the Armed Forces of the IRI demonstrated their high combat capabilities.

Attending the parade, which began at 0900 were Major General Zahirnezhad, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council; the commander in chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps; the Guards Corps and defense ministers; the commanders of the three branches of the IRI Armed Forces; a group of military and security commanders; foreign military attaches in Tehran; families of martyrs; and a large group of Hezbollah ummah.

During the ceremonies, Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani delivered a speech. Referring to the seventh anniversary of the imposed war, he said: Those warmongers, who imposed the war upon us on a day like today 7 years ago, could never have imagined that after 7 years they would be forced to bring into the arena those hidden faces of the war, those who kept claiming to be neutral. This miracle happened, and a revolutionary nation succeeded in standing alone against global imperialism, arrogance, reaction, and the slaves of power and wealth, and in crushing them and forcing them to retreat. This exceeded everyone's imagination during the first weeks of the war. Today it has become clear that the Islamic Revolution is invincible.

Continuing his speech, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council added: They were hoping to weaken the foundations of the system, to dismember the country and defeat the revolution, to bring a new gendarme from the Iraqi 'Aflaqi leaders to replace the Pahlavi dynasty. However, in the first weeks of the war, they were confronted by the unexpected resistance of the Armed Forces and the rapid response of the Muslim nation of Iran who requested training and duty at the front. After this, they woke up from their dream, and during the ensuing months they adopted a defensive stance in the hope of exhausting the resources of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the war.

Referring to the great victories of the forces of Islam at the battlefronts, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: During the last days of last year, after the forces of Islam crossed the Arvand River and captured the strong fortifications in Shalamcheh; after the penetration of Islam's fighters into sensitive regions in Iraq, which dragged the war into four Iraqi provinces and brought countless difficulties to Saddam, they realized that the claim of seeking peace could not cure their ills. Therefore, they were forced to enter the arena.

Referring to the presence of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council said: The unprecedented presence of NATO member nations in our country's waters and the new situation created by the United States in the Persian Gulf last night—when they attacked one of our cargo ships—exposed all their ill-intentions. We will continue along our chosen path. We can see clearly that the truth is surfacing in international forums, and under circumstances in which the world is eagerly awaiting the words of our president.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani went on: The world thinks that by boycotting our goods and by exerting economic, political, propaganda, and military pressure against us, it will be able to isolate the IRI. However, the IRI is calling upon the world to condemn the aggressor in view of the existing facts. Today we have been recognized in the world as a supporter of justice. The leaders of arrogance and the mouthpieces of global blasphemy must submit to justice.

Referring to the parade of the Armed Forces personnel, the spokesman for the Supreme Defense Council said: These Armed Forces personnel parading in front of you today are just one example of the huge ocean of our defensive forces. Our military might, in the form of classic, popular, and volunteer forces, is a new phenomenon, with revolutionary qualities united in the Armed Forces, the Guards Corps, and security forces.

Commenting on the self-sufficiency of the Armed Forces in manufacturing weapons, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The possibilities at the disposal of the creative forces of the revolution for foiling the economic sanctions and arms embargo can be seen in today's parade. This is a unique achievement of our experts.

He said in conclusion: We announce to the world that as long as the nation of Iran is denied its rights, and as long as the aggressors are not given their just desserts, it would be impossible to see peace in the region and in the world.

### Khamene'i on 'Very Critical' Situation

*LD221237 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] In a message sent to the steadfast nation and to the heroic fighters of Islam on the battlefronts on the seventh anniversary of the holy defense, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, referred to the devotion and self-sacrifice of the Muslim Iranian nation, and said: With their resistance our nation repulsed an attack and an aggression against the country. Behind this attack, which was carried out by an aggressive, arrogant and dastardly regime, one can see the hands of world arrogance and the treacherous plots of the enemies of Islam. I regard this not only as a great defensive move, but also as a sacrifice, a great revolution, and a lesson for all Muslim nations to protect Islam and safeguard Islamic values. With its continuous and very difficult resistance, our nation has truly taught a lesson to other nations and proved to them that one can remain steadfast and confront the onslaught of world arrogance—despite its false glamor—and foil its ambitions.

Further in his message the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council greeted the fighters of Islam who are wholeheartedly defending their revolution, Islam, their honor, and their beloved homeland. He emphasized: Today, the situation in the battlefields and in the military and political arena as a whole is in a very critical stage.

We have a difficult battle ahead of us, not only on the military fronts but also on the political fronts. However, with God's grace, we should be victorious on both fronts, military and the political. With God's grace, we shall definitely be victorious. This is a great battle in which the fate of Islam and of blasphemy will be decided. With God's grace and with the efforts of this great nation, it will be decided. Our nation should be prepared, because today is more sensitive than ever before. Today, world arrogance has come to fight our nation face to face, because it has achieved nothing by sending out its lackeys and mercenaries. That is why you see the U.S. fleet and those of other countries in the Persian Gulf. Today, these arch-enemies of Islam should clearly see the glory of Islam and the might of a nation which believes in Islam. This should teach them a lesson.

We pray that God Almighty will preserve the life of our dear and illustrious leader, for this nation and for all the Muslim nations, and for the sake of the realization of Islamic goals and aspirations.

### Armed Forces Parade Noted

*LD221259 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Excerpts] The glorious ceremonies marking the anniversary of the imposed war and Armed Forces Unity Week began with a march by the children of the martyrs of the Armed Forces, the Guards Corps, and the security forces. The marchers wore uniforms of their martyred fathers and carried the Iranian flag. [passage omitted]

During today's ceremonies at Azadi Sqaure, several helicopters showered the square with flowers. More than 60 fighter planes of the Iranian Air Force, including F-14's, F-4's, F-5's, transport and fuel tanker planes, flew over the square to demonstrate the superiority of our country's Air Force. At the same time, a fast-flying eagle of the Air Force demonstrated mid-air refueling from a tanker aircraft, which was cheered by the audience. Parachute operations were also carried out by members of the 23d Parachute Division.

According to this report, after a march by the Armed Forces, motorized units and modern military and defense equipment were exhibited. During the march, the Air Defense Force and the Navy of the Guards Corps exhibited a number of assorted missiles, the wreckage of an Iraqi MiG-25, land-to-sea missiles, and various mines. [passage omitted] The ceremonies ended with the Iranian anthem.

### IRNA Details Weapons Display

*LD221618 Tehran IRNA in English 1543 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Excerpt] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—Personnel of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces staged a grand parade on the streets here Tuesday morning displaying their combat readiness on the first day of the war week (Sept. 22-28), marking the 7th anniversary of the Iraqi-imposed war.

Among the military hardware displayed at the parade were 'Stinger' portable anti-aircraft missiles, 'Scud' and 'Eagle' surface-to-surface missiles, 'SAM-2', 'Sahand' and 'Rapier' surface-to-air missiles, 'Tiger Cat' missiles, coast-to-sea missiles, various types of mines, plus the wreckage of a downed Iraqi MiG-25 fighter.

Scores of F-14, F-4, F-5 jet fighters and tanker planes conducted magnificent maneuvers in the sky, including a refuelling display in air, demonstrating the superior air power of the Islamic republic. [passage omitted]

**Musavi Views Military Self-Sufficiency**
*LD211336 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Interview with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi by unidentified Tehran radio correspondent following Musavi's 21 September visit to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps pavilion at Tehran's 13th International Fair—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Musavi, you have inspected the equipment and military hardware displayed by the Ministry of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the IRGC, at Tehran's 13th International Fair. Could you please give us your impressions of what you saw, and to what extent you believe the country is moving toward the goal of achieving self-sufficiency?

[Musavi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I would like to say in one sentence that these achievements are a source of pride to our nation. What has been achieved here shows a creative mind that could blossom only in a divine environment. This demonstrates that when people are allowed to develop their ideas under the shadow of Islam and Islamic values, they can to a great extent solve problems.

We have witnessed many innovations here. The importance of this fair and this pavilion can be better understood when we realize that most of the things we see here were made from scratch. Our brothers did not have any resources at their disposal. They could not import the necessary materials from abroad because in reality some sort of arms embargo has already been imposed upon us, which includes raw materials, spare parts, and sophisticated technology. Therefore, our innovations are highly appreciated.

There was a section at this pavilion devoted to the achievements of our brothers that shows their extensive struggle and their deep faith. There were some outstanding and very significant works on aircraft, missiles, and other similar weapons. As I mentioned before, this fair shows that a glorious future awaits our defense industries.

Moreover, this fair, in displaying examples of our brothers' achievements, demonstrates how ridiculous the recent hue and cry of an arms embargo is against us. Our people who visit the fair can judge for themselves whether such sanctions would have any chance of success, of imposing something upon us? I believe that the answer is no: They cannot impose anything on us.

Even if we did not have these achievements...[Musavi changes thought] The martyr Rajai'e [former president who died with Prime Minister Bahonar in a bomb explosion] once said: Our real war will begin when we run out of bullets.

However, thanks be to God, while our nation is enjoying the same high morale now as in Rajai'e's time, our Hezbollah experts—who, incidentally have proved that to be religious and inventive are not contradictory—have come up with innovations that have helped us to fill many of the gaps, shortages, and (?backwardness) so that we can catch up with modern military technology. We are catching up, and the important point is that we have achieved this through our domestic resources. We hope that, God willing, this fair will inspire our country's other departments and political, cultural, and industrial sectors. I particularly recommend that students visit this fair. School trips will create high morale and optimism among the pupils, as well as hope. It will move them into seeing a bright future.

[Correspondent] Because the government has given priority to the war and because of the need to achieve self-sufficiency in the military industries, what are the government's future plans to reach this goal more quickly?

[Musavi] The growth toward self-sufficiency will be accelerated by commitment and necessity. We have the commitment right now. The necessity was, fortunately, imposed upon us by the superpowers. We must fight the arrogant powers. The government should prepare the groundwork. The government has a strict policy on imports and, at the same time, the arrogant powers themselves are reluctant to export raw materials and spare parts to our country—they have a strict policy on the transfer of technology. All these things have motivated our inventive experts to develop new ideas. This morale should survive even if we were to feel that some of the restrictions on our imports outside have been relaxed. We should continue to be hard on restricting imports in order to continue along this path. The job that has been started must be completed.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

[Musavi] You are welcome.

**Montazeri Receives Marchers in Qom**
*LD211351 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Text] Those marching toward Jamaran [Khomeyni's residence] and the war fronts and the Persian Gulf met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom yesterday.

During this meeting, the deputy leader gave a lengthy speech stressing the necessity for complete readiness by the various classes of people and world Muslims toward

the enemies of Islam and also the need to increase the level of military and cultural training of fighters. He pointed out: Exporting the revolution does not mean military intervention in a country. Our aim in exporting the revolution is to make our revolution a model for other oppressed nations to gain their independence, after we have established the revolution's standards and values inside the country, with perseverence and self-sacrifice, without slogans and words. He stressed: The higher standards of the revolution cannot be reached through a lot of slogans. Instead of slogans, we must act.

Referring to the necessity to preserve unity and respect the dignity of people, the deputy leader stressed: Most of the statements made to expose others, even if they are made with good intentions, are sinful, contrary to religious teachings, and harmful to the aims of the revolution.

Finally, the deputy leader prayed for a speedy final victory for the fighters of Islam and the defeat of the enemies of Islam and good health and long life for the imam of the ummah.

## Report on Turkish Industry Minister's Visit

### Arrives 18 Sep

*LD191123 Tehran IRNA in English 2006 GMT 18 Sep 87*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 18, IRNA—Turkey's minister of industries and commerce Cahit Aral arrived in Tehran Friday afternoon at the head of an economic delegation and was welcomed by Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi.

In a talk with IRNA, the Turkish minister said the objective of his visit is to confer with Iranian officials for economic affairs on further expansion of Tehran-Ankara relations. He said he will also visit the ongoing Tehran International Trade Fair as well as industrial centers of the country.

The Iranian Minister in reply expressed hope that the visit would be fruitful for expansion of the two countries' economic ties.

The Turkish delegation is here at the invitation of industries Minister Nabavi and is scheduled to hold talks with several Iranian officials for industrial and economic affairs.

### Confers With Iravani

*LD200111 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 19 Sep 87*

[Text] The Turkish minister of industry and commerce met and conferred this morning with Mohammad Javad Iravani, the minister of economy and finance. During the meeting, the Turkish industry minister expressed the hope that the two Muslim and brotherly countries would be able to use each other's experience in various fields, especially in industry and commerce. He added that Turkey wants the two neighboring countries to remain strong in the region. Turkey strongly supports this.

In reply, Mr Iravani said: After the victory of the Islamic revolution, our policy on commercial deals was changed from exporting consumer goods to exporting intermediate and capital goods. Our foreign trade with Third World countries, especially Islamic countries, has increased compared with the prerevolution period from 4 percent of all foreign trade to 28 percent. Our industries have gradually moved from being a mix to having a higher percentage involved with domestic manufacture with self-sufficiency.

He added: Despite considerable war expenses and a population growth rate of 3.89 percent in the post-revolution years, not only does our country have no foreign debts, but some countries, even some industrialized countries, owe us money. He then cited the successful Islamic banking system, the presentation of the bill on value added taxation, the distribution of land among farmers, and the nationalization of foreign trade as achievements of the Islamic revolution.

Finally, he stressed the expansion of cooperation between the two countries; the possibility of mutual investments; the export of Iranian gas to eastern parts of Turkey; the setting up of a committee to review the joint utilization of border waters of Iran, Turkey, and the USSR; and the increase in Iran's nonoil exports to Turkey. He expressed the hope that the two countries would be able to take great steps toward further expanding relations.

### Visits International Fair

*LD201751 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 20 Sep 87*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA—Turkey's national day was celebrated at Tehran's 13th International Trade Fair in a ceremony attended by a number of high ranking Iranian and Turkish officials as well as diplomats of participating countries at the fair, here Sunday.

Speaking in the ceremony, visiting Turkish Minister of Industries and Commerce Cahit Aral elaborated on bilateral economic ties, saying the annual volume of Tehran-Ankara trade exchanges stands at nearly dlrs 2 billion.

Aral said that Iran provides his country with half of its oil requirements and in turn imports around 100 items of various industrial goods and agricultural products from Turkey.

In order to boost the volume of Irano-Turkish trade exchanges, Ankara attaches great importance to the increase of Iranian non-oil exports to Turkey, Aral said.

Elsewhere in his speech, the Turkish minister said Turkey's relations with the European Economic Community (EEC) do not effect its ties with Muslim states. He said

his country places special emphasis on its ties with Iran and Pakistan, the two other members of the 3 national Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

In response, Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi said the Islamic Republic, despite the Iraqi-imposed war and its related difficulties, has had an active presence at the Izmir International Fair over the past few years. This stems from the importance Iran attaches to its ties with Turkey, he added. He said both the Iranian and Turkish nations have common interests and that the Islamic Republic has always favored the expansion of Tehran-Ankara ties.

Nabavi recalled Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's visit to Tehran in early 1981 during which he held 'constructive' talks with Iranian officials resulting in considerable expansion of Tehran-Ankara ties and the signing of a letter of understanding between the two countries.

After Turgut Ozal's visit to Tehran, Iran emerged as Turkey's largest trading partner and the volume of mutual trade exchanges in 1986, despite low oil prices, was put at dlrs 2 billion, of which dlrs 1.2 billion have so far been realized.

In addition to trade exchanges, Iran and Turkey are trying to further deepen their cooperation in other fields and Cahit Aral's visit to Tehran would further promote such cooperation, concluded Nabavi.

### Meets With Musavi

*LD201755 Tehran IRNA in English 1741 GMT 20 Sep 87*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 20, IRNA—Prime Minister Hosayn Musavi sternly warned the U.S. today that if any pressure is exerted on Iran from the Persian Gulf, the Islamic Republic has its own special ways of making Washington pay dearly for its "unwise" policies in the region.

Speaking in a meeting with visiting Turkish Minister of Industries and Commerce Cahit Aral here, the premier made it clear that the longer U.S. maintains its military presence in the Persian Gulf, the more difficult it would be for her to get out of this swamp.

As a result of U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf, regional states are witnessing unpleasant incidents which are in no way in their interests, Musavi pointed.

Commenting on bilateral relations, Musavi expressed satisfaction over the growing trend of Tehran-Ankara ties and expressed hope that they would further expand in the future.

In response, Aral said he had a glimpse of Iran's industrial progress during his tour of Tehran's 13th international trade fair earlier today. He described it as a "source of honour" for a country which is embroiled in such a prolonged war. He also called for further expansion of Irano-Turkish ties in various fields.

### Visits Industrial Sites

*LD220930 Tehran IRNA in English 0700 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—The visiting Turkish Minister of Industries and Commerce, Cahit Aral, visited industrial plants in Tabriz, East Azarbayjan Province, Monday.

At the end of his inspection tour, Aral described Iran's post-revolution industrial achievements, especially in manufacturing machinery as "outstanding". The Turkish minister said that these achievements indicate that Iran would soon reach self-sufficiency in the field of industry.

Aral expressed satisfaction with his visit and the outlook for expansion of bilateral industrial cooperation.

Later on the same day, Aral left Tabriz for Isfahan where he visited some factories as well as historical monuments.

### Meets With Commerce Minister

*NC230624 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] During talks between the Iranian and Turkish commerce ministers yesterday, the two officials stressed the need to expand and consolidate bilateral trade relations. They also exchanged views on expediting commercial exchanges.

## Reportage on Visit of Bulgaria's Tsanov

### Confers With Nabavi

*LD211938 Tehran IRNA in English 1537 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 21, IRNA—Visiting Bulgarian Minister of Transport Vasil Tsanov conferred with Minister of Heavy Industries Behzad Nabavi, here Monday.

The Bulgarian minister said Iranian industries, despite the war, have undergone 'considerable and positive' developments which amaze everybody.

Adverting to industrial cooperation between Iran and Bulgaria especially in machine-building industries, Tsanov said the two countries can enjoy further cooperation in these areas.

The two sides emphasised on strengthening of Tehran-Sofia industrial and economic ties.

The Bulgarian minister arrived here Friday at the head of a delegation to attend the 13th International Trade Fair of Tehran and to hold talks with Iranian officials.

### Speaks at Trade Fair Ceremony

*LD211954 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 21, IRNA—A ceremony marking Bulgaria's national day was held at Tehran's 13th International Trade Fair here Monday.

Speaking at the ceremony visiting Bulgarian Minister of Transport Vasil Tsanov stressed that his country is keen to materialize important agreements concluded with Iran at the fourth Tehran-Sofia joint commission in Tehran in April 1987 in various fields.

Tsanov announced Bulgaria's preparedness to hold 'useful and constructive' talks with the Islamic Republic with a view of expanding the mutual ties.

Also speaking at the ceremony, Iranian Minister of Roads and Transport Mohammad Seyyed Kya said the volume of trade exchanges between Iran and Bulgaria have increased ten-fold after the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979. Seyyed Kya expressed hope that Iran's non-oil exports to all countries, especially to Bulgaria would increase.

### Bulgaria To Provide Port Facilities

*LD230836 Tehran IRNA in English 0705 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 23, IRNA—The visiting Bulgarian Minister of Transportation Vasil Tsanov submitted Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi a message from his Bulgarian counterpart.

During the meeting, the visiting minister said that he was deeply impressed by the cries of Allah-O-Akbar of people in Tehran Monday night as a token of the high morale of a people determined to attain victory.

Tsanov also said that he witnessed Iran's rapid progress at the Tehran International Trade Fair despite the war time conditions.

On the results of his visit to Iran, he said that it was agreed that port facilities including warehouses and docks would be put at the disposal of Iran at Bulgarian port of Burgas. He expressed hope that the agreements would be a turning point for broadening mutual relations.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Musavi said that allocation of port facilities by Bulgaria and that of research project on construction of Shahid Beheshti breakwater by Iran indicates the friendly atmosphere in relations between the two countries.

On the attack of U.S. helicopter on Iranian cargo ships, the prime minister said that Iran naturally feels at home in the region and that the U.S. will be forced to leave the region abjectedly. He also stressed that Iran will continue its resistance against the U.S. Tsanov arrived here Friday heading a delegation.

### Trade Talks With Polish Official Begin

*LD221136 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—The visiting Polish deputy foreign trade minister, Janusz Balewski, started his first round of talks with deputy commerce minister for foreign trade, Mojtaba Khosrow-Taj, here Tuesday morning.

The Polish official stressed his country's interest in further cooperating with Iran in various industrial fields as well as meeting Iran's requirements in capital goods and heavy industrial machinery.

Meanwhile, Balewski announced Poland's readiness to cooperate with Iran in road construction, fishing, ship building, and transfer of technology. Poland is willing to purchase further non-oil goods especially clothing from Iran, Balewski said.

## Reportage on Combat Operations Against Iraq

### Peshmerga Infiltrate Iraqi Towns

*LD201359 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Sep 87*

[Text] According to reports from the Ramadan Headquarters, the center of irregular warfare of the Guards Corps ground forces, combative Kurdish Pershmerga of the Iraqi Irbil Province branch, in six operations penetrated the towns of Irbil and Baniyah in Iraq. They carried out revolutionary executions on eight Iraqi security officers and mercenaries, including a counterespionage officer, by the name of (Laqib Dawud). They also captured one of them.

According to this report, combative Kurdish Peshmergas of the Al-Sulaymaniyah branch, during two ambushes on the Tuz Khurmatu- Qadir Karam road, killed eight Ba'thist mercenaries and captured three of them.

### Communique No 2,966

*LD211616 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 21, IRNA—Several Iraqi gun emplacements, five watch posts and some heavy and light vehicles were destroyed and a number of enemy troops were killed as a result of Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in northwestern fronts Sunday.

Reporting the above here today the 2966th Joint Staff Communique added that Iraqi movements and relocation activities in Shanadari, Bani Banuk and Sayyid Sadiq axes were halted by Iranian artillery fire.

Several Iraqi vehicles were set ablaze in western operational theaters by Muslim combatants who also halted movements of Iraqi motorized columns as well as reconnaissance flights of enemy helicopters in Maymak, Mandali and Helaleh operational regions.

In the southern fronts parts of Iraqi bunkers, watch posts together with two vehicles and several munitions dumps were demolished and a group of Ba'thist forces were killed or wounded. Iranian anti-aircraft fire also thwarted patrol operations of Iraqi helicopters in areas overlooking Faqqeh.

The communique said a cargo ship was searched by Iranian naval forces in the Strait of Hormuz Sunday, but allowed it to continue voyage when no suspicious cargo was found on board.

Another cargo ship which had been escorted to a southern port for further inspection last Friday was released Saturday after the Navy was satisfied of her destination and cargo, concluded the communique.

### Communique No 2,967

*LD221701 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—Iraqi troops suffered heavy casualties when several enemy gun emplacements and observation posts, two munitions dumps, two mortar launchers and a command jeep were destroyed in parts of the battlefields in artillery duels with Iran's Muslim combatants Monday.

Announcing the above, the 2967th Joint Staff Communique said on Tuesday that Iranian Gendarmerie forces responded to Iraqi artillery fire in parts of the southern fronts yesterday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and setting afire 15 gun emplacements of theirs.

Iranian patrol convoys successfully reconnoitered key Iraqi positions throughout the fronts Monday, discovering and seizing some enemy military equipment and returning safely to bases.

An Iraqi patrol unit attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Helaleh, western sector, Sunday was forced to flee by Iran's artillery fire.

In order to boost the low morale of their personnel, Iraqi troops embarked on moving several vehicle columns in Maymak, Kani-Sheykh, Kharratha, Helaleh and Mehran, western fronts, but sustained heavy losses under Iran's artillery fire Monday.

Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and searched an oil tanker and two cargo ships in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied there was no Iraqi-destined cargo aboard them, concluded the communique.

### Peshmerga Retake Heyran

*LD221716 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 22, IRNA—Peshmergas of Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (KDP) [as received] beat back enemy efforts to retake the liberated Heyran District of Irbil Province killing over 1,000 Iraqi forces wounding 1,400 and capturing 20 others. An Iraqi regiment commander and a battalion commander are among the slain.

Ramadan Headquarters, center for irregular warfare of Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) reporting the above, said that Iraqi forces attacked the district from various points using tanks, armoured vehicles and artillery units together with air support but the Kurdish Muslim Pershmergas made them retreat.

More than 90 vehicles, tens of light arms and a great amount of munitions were demolished or seized intact by PUK peshmergas since the liberation of Heyran District.

Clashes continue in the region with the local Muslim people and the Peshmergas holding the upperhand. The liberated district is under their complete control.

### 121 Casualties in Iraqi Air Raid

*LD230655 Tehran IRNA in English 0645 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 23, IRNA—The number of martyrs and wounded of the Tuesday Iraqi air raid on housing areas of Azna, Lorestan Province, rose to 121. Four mirage aircraft attacked the city Tuesday morning damaging several residential and industrial quarters of the city.

### Iraqi Jets Bomb Bakhtaran City

*LD231055 Tehran IRNA in English 1046 GMT 23 Sep 87*

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 23, IRNA—Iraqi war planes hit several industrial centers and residential quarters in and outside the western Iranian city of Bakhtaran Wednesday noon. At least one civilian is reported martyred and five others injured. Buildings also sustained damage.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi jet fighters violated Sanandaj and Hamadan airspace, western Iran Wednesday morning without being able to drop bombs. The Iraqi planes broke the sound barrier over the city in their flight back to the Iraqi territory.

## Pakistan

### Four Killed in 19 Sep Rawalpindi Bomb Blast

*BK190612 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 19 Sep 87*

[Text] An explosion took place at the Pir Wadhai general bus stand in Rawalpindi this morning. According to police sources, three persons were killed on the spot, and another succumbed to his injuries in the hospital. Twelve others, who were admitted to hospitals, are in critical condition, while five injured persons were released after basic medical treatment.

### Interior Minister on Arrest of Afghans

*BK200940 Karachi Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 20 Sep 87*

[Text] The National Assembly was informed this morning that 50 Afghan nationals have been arrested by NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] police for indulging in subversive activities. Replying to a question, the minister of state for interior, Raja Nadir Parvez Khan, said these Afghans have admitted their guilt and also disclosed that they were sent by KHAD [Afghan secret police]. Police have recovered explosive materials and time devices from them. The minister of state said six Afghan and Iranian nationals had also been arrested by Sind police for their alleged involvement in bomb explosions. They are being interrogated by law enforcing agencies.

The House earlier offered fateha [prayers] for the victims of yesterday's bomb blast at Pir Wadhai in Rawalpindi.

### Prime Minister Meets With Reagan 21 Sep

*BK220430 Karachi Domestic Sevice in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo had a meeting with President Reagan in New York yesterday during which they exchanged views on the Afghanistan issue and Pakistan's atomic program. After the meeting, an official spokesman said the prime minister thanked the U.S. President for his tribute to Pakistan during his address to the UN General Assembly session the previous day, and for helping more than 3 million Afghan refugees.

The spokesman said that during the meeting, President Reagan reaffirmed U.S. support of Pakistan on the Afghanistan issue. He said the two leaders agreed that the immediate withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan is absolutely essential. They also agreed, that in the future, there should be a regime in Kabul which reflects the aspirations of the people of Afghanistan.

The spokesman said Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and President Reagan had an extremely free exchange of views on the atomic issue. The prime minister reiterated Pakistan's resolve not to make atomic weapons. He urged President Reagan to use his good offices to make South Asia free from atomic weapons, as it is essential to this problem's solution.

The meeting between the two leaders lasted for 8 hours [as heard], in the American mission at the United Nations. President Reagan was accompanied by U.S. Secretary of State Shultz and senior U.S. officials. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and the Pakistani ambassador to Washington, Jamshed Marker, assisted the prime minister at the talks.

Radio Pakistan's special representative, Safdar Ahad, says Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz are to meet within a few days. This meeting will be in connection with the talks between the prime minister of Pakistan and President Reagan.

Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has extended an invitation to President Reagan to visit Pakistan. An official spokesman told newsmen in New York that the invitation has been gladly accepted.

### Junejo Cancels UN Address Due to Illness

*BK221630 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 Sep 87*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has canceled his engagements for today, including his address to the UN General Assembly, because of his indisposition. His address has been rescheduled for another date.

## Sri Lanka

### Jayewardene Discusses Accord With India

*BK201215 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 Sep 87*

[Text] President J.R. Jayewardene has warned the society to be careful of those who are seeking to attain certain objectives by violence and assassination and by causing injury to harmless men and women. Addressing the 51st annual general meeting of the Ceylon Planters Society at the Hotel Hilton International in Colombo yesterday, Mr Jayewardene called on all peace-loving people in the country and those who value democracy to help the government to see that the heinous attempts of these people do not succeed. He said he hoped to get over the violence in the south in the next 2 months. Mr Jayewardene said that getting help from another country is nothing new in the world. India has sought help from foreign countries and so did Great Britain. He said that the Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, came to Sri Lanka as a friend to sign the peace accord.

Speaking at length on the accord, the president said that it has three parts. One is the agreement; the other, the annexure; and the third is the letter. Mr Jayewardene pointed out that the only controversial passage in the agreement is that the government has agreed that the Northern and Eastern Provinces should be joined together as one unit with a board of ministers, a chief minister, and a governor, temporarily. The annexure is harmless. The letter deals with some matters that have to be discussed in the future. One is that the Trincomalee oil tanks should be run by the two governments in a joint agreement in which Sri Lanka will have a major share. The president said that the opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party can't say that this is wrong because it was their policy to give the tanks to India. The other matter related to holding discussions with Mr Gandhi before establishing friendship with countries that are inimical to India. The president noted that there was no harm in discussing such matters with anybody. President Jayewardene also said that he was in total agreement that the VOA [Voice of America] should not be used for military purposes. The Americans have said that they do not intend to do so. However, Mr Bandaranaike's policy was to close down the VOA.

### Further Reportage on Clashes Among Tamils

#### India 'Concerned'; Curfew in Trincomalee

*BK181629 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Sep 87*

[Text] The Indian Government is understood to be concerned at the events taking place over the last few days in Sri Lanka's eastern districts and in Jaffna. It has become quite evident that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] are using all sorts of devices to prevent forward movement in the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. It is felt that the bloody violence over the weekend and the simultaneous declaration of

the use of nonviolent means by the LTTE are quite unwarranted. The LTTE has been resorting to fast unto death, picketing government offices, forceful closure of police stations, and the use of school children and girls to block the movement of peacekeeping force vehicles. These are being viewed as evidence of LTTE's attempts to block the implementation of the agreement.

The third round of official level talks between India and Sri Lanka on the devolution of powers to the proposed northern and eastern provincial council continued for the 2d day in Colombo today. The talks are likely to continue further.

Meanwhile, indefinite curfew was clamped this morning in the eastern Trincomalee District following violent incidents. At least three people were killed. Police fired tear gas shells to bring the situation under control. Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, says that unidentified gunmen shot dead three local leaders of the ruling United National Party at a village market in south Sri Lanka last night.

### Indian Troops Given More Power

*BK211653 Hong Kong AFP in English 1622 GMT 21 Sep 87*

[Text] Colombo, Sept 21 (AFP)—Indian peacekeeping troops deployed in Sri Lanka were given orders Monday [21 September] to seize weapons from Tamil militants and shoot resisting rebels, Indian military sources said here.

The orders came a day after India accused Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil militant group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), of massacring more than 100 rivals in clashes last week in the north and east of the island.

"Indian troops will not allow anyone to freely brandish weapons in public and terrorise innocent people. Those who won't surrender their arms will be fired at," said an Indian military official who requested anonymity.

The Indian High Commission (embassy) had said last week that the 7,000 Indian troops in Sri Lanka to monitor a New Delhi-backed peace pact would be ordered to look for rebel arms if clashes between rival Tamils did not end.

In what observers said was a further warning to Tamils to lay down their arms, Indian troops late Sunday [20 September] arrested 15 suspected Tamil militants carrying weapons and explosives in the northern Vavuniya District.

Officials here said Monday the troops had stopped the men on a tractor in Vavuniya, 255 kilometers (160 miles) north of here, seizing 11 hand grenades, four automatic guns and about 600 rounds of ammunition.

Police said the militants, suspected of being members of the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), a minor separatist group, would be charged under normal law.

Tamil militants have reluctantly surrendered some of their arms under the July peace pact, but Indian and Sri Lankan officials say they still hold a large quantity of weapons, used liberally in the recent internecine violence.

According to various reports, more than 100 people were killed in Vavuniya and the eastern Batticaloa District last week, apparently the result of a struggle for power among Tamil groups hoping to control a proposed provincial council for the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

The LTTE, accused of killing at least 1,000 rivals since 1983 to lead the Tamil separatist struggle, has denied charges that it was behind the violence and accused New Delhi of instigating the fighting.

Officials said Monday the plot was preventing vehicles entering the northern Jaffna Peninsula where the rival LTTE is currently staging a non-cooperation campaign to protest the peace pact.

"There are about 100 vehicles including 32 food trucks just outside the entrance to the peninsula. The PLOTE does not want anyone to go up to Jaffna and several defying vehicles have been smashed and looted," a military spokesman said.

A senior LTTE leader, Amirthalingam Thileepan, continued a fast for the seventh day Monday to back the group's Jaffna protest, and his condition was reported to be deteriorating.

Among its demands, the LTTE wants some 60,000 Sinhalese who have settled in the northeastern Trincomalee District since 1948 removed, and police stations set up by the government dismantled in Tamil-dominated areas.

Referring to the LTTE protests, an Indian High Commission spokeswoman said Monday New Delhi was determined to see the peace pact through and would not stand back "while some people try to wreck it."

The LTTE action has spread to Batticaloa, where some 200 students picketed the city's public library, local residents said.

An official said banks and some shops were closed and police and Indian troops were patrolling the streets in large numbers.

(A minor militant group, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), called in Madras, southern India, Monday for an official investigation into "all acts of murders, arson and assault by the LTTE."

(A spokesman for the group told *Agence France-Presse* by telephone the LTTE was engaged in house-to-house searches in eastern Amparai and Batticaloa Districts which "invariably include assaults and destruction of property."

(The EPRLF also demanded the arrest of LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakran and his deputies for allegedly ordering "mass murders."

(Another group, the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF), said in a statement issued in Madras that the LTTE had kidnapped more than 200 rival militants in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna town.)

### LTTE Kill 7 PLOTE Members

*BK221255 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1250 GMT 22 Sep 87*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 22 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Seven PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were killed this morning at Vavuniya in a clash with the LTTE, police told *Lanka Puwath*. They said police had recovered the seven bodies. They said the LTTE was reported to have surrounded the PLOTE camp two miles from Vavuniya and staged the attack.

Meanwhile unconfirmed reports said that as many as 15 PLOTE terrorists were shot dead by the LTTE, while two Liberation Tigers too had been killed.

### 10 Arrested for Bomb Attack in Parliament

*BK210947 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0913 GMW 21 Sep 87*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 21 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Criminal Investigation Department (CID) detectives have detained 10 persons in their investigations into the last August 18 bomb attack in Sri Lanka's Parliament when an attempt was made to assassinate President J.R. Jayewardene, a senior police official told *Lanka Puwath* today. He said that six of those detained were Parliament employees, while the other four were from Gampaha.

However, the most wanted man in the investigation was Ajith Kumara the Parliament sweeper whom investigations reveal was allegedly a hardcore member of the proscribed Janatha mu Vimukthi Peramuna.

### JVP Politburo Discovered, Member in Custody

*BK190809 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0737 GMT 19 Sep 87*

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 19 (*Lanka Puwath*)—Police investigations into the activities of the proscribed subversive organisation Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) reveal that it has a six man Politburo.

Police sources told *Lanka Puwath* that the JVP also has a military wing which carries out armed raids on public establishments, robberies and murders.

According to the investigations the Politburo gives the orders to the military wing.

Politburo members are strictly banned from participating in military wing activities.

One Politburo member who had participated in the military wing raid on the Sri Lanka Air Force base at Katunayake, 'Ragama Soma' earlier this year was sacked from the Politburo. He is now under arrest. He is one of many of the JVP gang who took part in the raid who have been apprehended.